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Japan

Miyazawa, Bush Give Joint News Conference

OW0901155592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0730 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's remarks at joint news conference with U.S. President George Bush at the State Guesthouse in Tokyo; moderated by Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe—live; Bush remarks omitted]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Well, I think that those who watched television last night must have been very worried. But the president is doing well, as you see, and I think people all over the world feel at ease now. I hope you will take good care of yourself for a little while.

The president is visiting as a state guest for the first time in eight years. As President Bush said just now, we held three rounds of summit talks. We exchanged views frankly and made our relations very close. I am satisfied with this. As indicated by the dismantling of the Soviet Union toward the end of last year, the post-cold war world today is undoubtedly showing new moves toward building peace and democracy. I would like to express my deep respect to President Bush for having demonstrated preeminent foresight and leadership by proposing the START and Nuclear Forces Reduction Treaty in helping create these historic moves.

Japan and the United States have come to account for 40 percent of the world's gross national product while holding fast to freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and market economies. I think it is time now for these two countries to join efforts in building peace and democracy for the new world. At this juncture, it is important that the United States demonstrate its strong leadership, and I think Japan should back up the endeavors of the United States and actively carry out the tasks it should accomplish.

The spirit of the latest summit talks will turn up in global partnerships between Japan and the United States. I think that it marks the first such step toward these partnerships assuming concrete shape.

The president and I exchanged frank views on various problems in trade and economic areas. I think we also had a substantial talk on measures for the automobile and automobile parts issues, which are central to Japanese-U.S. trade, in addition to implementing our economic policies steadily as stated in the joint statement released yesterday.

In light of the closeness of economic relations between Japan and the United States, it may be inevitable that frictions occur from time to time. Of course, it cannot be said that the agreements we have reached this time will help resolve all the problems, but, as the president said just now, I think that the talks were very fruitful and I am satisfied with them.

On the basis of the latest summit talks, a document called the Tokyo Declaration and its annex, the Action Plan, which have been distributed to you, were made public. I think that these are epochal items that clarify how relations between the two countries should be characterized in the 21st century. They set forth the responsibilities and roles the two countries, in mutual cooperation, should fulfill and the tasks with which they should come to grips. I am resolved to vigorously promote Japanese-U.S. global partnership in the future in accordance with them.

I believe it is unprecedented in the history of mankind that two countries with such different cultures and histories have deepened mutual dependence and cooperative relations this much. I think it is safe to say that it is an unprecedented attempt in history that we, who have different cultural and historical backgrounds, share our future together and cooperate in one united body for the world. The people at home and abroad are watching the results of our cooperation with expectations. For this reason, I intend to do everything in my power to meet those expectations, and I am convinced that the president has the same resolve.

Thank you very much.

[Watanabe] As I explained earlier, I will have a Japanese reporter ask the first question. I would appreciate it if you give your name and the company you represent first and also clearly state to whom your question is addressed before asking questions. Mr. Oda, go ahead, please. [passage omitted: Oda question, Bush's answer, question by an American reporter and Bush's subsequent answer]

[Watanabe] Now, Japanese reporters. Mr. Kurokoshi.

[Kurokoshi] I am Kurokoshi of YOMIURI SHIMBUN. [question indistinct]

[Miyazawa] The writing of the document [GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's draft agreement] comes across as somewhat of an impetus—or should I call it a stimulus? Arguments gradually became condensed at the final stage. Although the Dunkel paper is not the final text, it has clarified where problems lie. Accordingly, the scope of the arguments was narrowed. In this sense, I consider it an impetus. [passage omitted]

[Hanya] I am Hanya of TV ASAHI. I am addressing my question to Prime Minister Miyazawa. [passage indistinct] Japan's one-sided concession. How are you going to obtain the people's understanding?

[Miyazawa] To resolve problems pending between Japan and the United States at this juncture is important for friendship between the two countries, but, as I said earlier, it is imperative that the United States, a world leader, move ahead strongly in this drastically changing world. I think it also means that it will be a loss to everyone if the United States faces various problems. We prepared for a long time for President Bush's visit, and, as you see, we have achieved results. The contents of the results include a considerable number of problems that pertain to ourselves—those problems which we have not addressed, while thinking for a long time that we should address them. They also include other problems we thought it would be better to address to improve the trade balance between Japan and the United States. Therefore, there are these two aspects. In this sense, I think it was possible to achieve the goals in both aspects—that is, the improvement of the structure of the Japanese economy itself, as well as the improvement of the trade balance between Japan and the United States—through the concrete measures taken this time. [passage omitted]

[Reid in English] Tom Reid of THE WASHINGTON POST. Mr. Prime Minister, in your press conference on New Year's Day you said you were thinking of America *dojo o motte* [with sympathy]. My dictionary says this means with a feeling of sympathy or a feeling of compassion. Why do you feel sympathy for America?

[Miyazawa] You used the words sympathy and compassion. I would not say that they are incorrect, but what I really wanted to convey was to understand the position of the other side. If I call it a favor, that would be a disfavor. I mean to say that we have been addressing the issue with an awareness of trying to understand the position of the other side. Of course, this understanding is based on the long friendship and friendly relations existing between our two countries. I think that American society is great but, for various reasons, there are so many homeless people, there are diseases like AIDS, and, in a number of ways, education is not like it was before. The Americans themselves acknowledge and point out that their industry is not competitive. So long as the Americans themselves point out and are aware of these things, I think these problems can surely be remedied. I think the United States is that great. However, I think it is important for us to understand this position and cope with it until these problems are remedied. Since these problems turn up in the trade imbalance between the two sides, we want to understand them and cope with them accordingly. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified NHK reporter] [passage omitted on questions to Bush] Prime Minister Miyazawa, we listened to President Bush's speech at Pearl Harbor with deep emotion. How did you feel about the speech, and what are you going to do in response to proposals made by the President yesterday? [passage on Bush remarks omitted]

[Miyazawa] In the speech in Honolulu, the President stated that he no longer bears hatred toward either Japan or Germany and that these former enemies have become the best friends of democracy. I am quite aware that since this was a statement made in front of many World War II veterans at Pearl Harbor, where many warships remain underwater with a large number of fallen soldiers, it was not easy for the President to say such a thing. Like most people who listened to the speech, I was deeply touched by the President's expression of confidence in and friendship for Japan at that very place. In the wake of the war, Japan today has become what it is because of constant support from the United States. This is what we must not forget. I think that bilateral friendship was the keynote of my meetings with the President this time.

Moreover, the President stated in the Honolulu speech that we have to overcome isolationism and protectionism. I think that this was a massage not only to U.S. citizens, but also to the world, including Japan. Therefore, our discussions on economic issues focused on the point that the world may lean on protectionism from now on, as well as on what we have to do to stop such a trend. With respect to bilateral relations, the United States has been suffering from large trade deficits for a long period of time, and in such a case, a nation tends to opt for protectionism unless actions are taken to find a way out.

The President stressed that his country should cope with such a tendency. I, too, am one of those who read the speech and was deeply impressed.

[Watanabe in English] Well, both the prime minister and the President have a very busy schedule, and I would like to say that they have to adjourn the meeting today. Thank you very much.

U.S. President Bush Departs From Tokyo 10 Jan

OW1001024992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0223 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—U.S. President George Bush and his high-powered trade mission concluded its whirlwind 12-day Asia- Pacific tour Friday and departed for the United States from Tokyo's Haneda Airport.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko bid farewell to Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush but a speech scheduled for the President at the U.S. Embassy was canceled.

It had been expected that Bush would recap the achievements of the mission's tour of Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan, but the speech was called off after Bush was stricken with intestinal flu Wednesday at a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

White House physicians, Bush, and his entourage all insisted it was merely a bout with "24-hour flu," but video footage of the ashen President sprawled out beside the dinner table raised questions about his health and the rigors of his schedule.

Two days of talks between Bush and Miyazawa, and grueling sessions among Japanese and U.S. business leaders, resulted in an affirmation of the Japan-U.S. partnership in the post-cold war world and an "action plan" for resolving sticky bilateral trade issues.

The focus of the talks was the effort to get the Japanese to import more American-made cars and auto parts.

While the leaders of the U.S "Big Three" auto manufacturers said they were encouraged by this "first step," they also clearly had hoped for more than they got.

Bush, 67, heads home to face the rigors of seeking reelection and reviving the recession-hit U.S. economy, and his collapse in Tokyo may raise questions about his health during the election campaign, political analysts said.

Reactions to Bush Visit, Summit Talks Reported

Miyazawa on Inflated Expectations

OW1001074492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa cautioned the United States on Friday not to expect immediate results from trade agreements thrashed out during a visit here this week by President George Bush.

"Perhaps the agreements will not be reflected immediately in the trade numbers," Miyazawa said in a speech delivered shortly after Bush departed for Washington at the end of a four-day visit.

"When you decide on this big of a program I think it will take quite some time for favorable results to emerge in both countries' economic and trade statistics," Miyazawa told an audience of Japanese and expatriate business executives.

Expressing satisfaction with the two days of summit talks, Miyazawa said Japan has done its best "and I think President Bush understood that."

The prime minister used the occasion to thank the business community for cooperating in programs to reduce Japan's 41 billion dollar trade surplus with the United States and enabling structural changes, some of which he said were long overdue.

During the Bush visit, Japanese industry agreed to make efforts to increase imports of auto components, cars, and other manufactured items in agreements some critics have described as favoring "managed" trade.

The agreements also streamlined complicated inspections and other procedures that the United States said posed barriers to imports.

Miyazawa also gave a bright prognosis for the Japanese economy, which worried economists with a marked slowdown at the end of 1991.

"I think we are out of the darker period of the Japanese economy. I think the Japanese economy will be on a sound track," he said, reporting improvements over the last month or two.

Miyazawa reiterated a pledge to provide financial support for democratization and economic liberalization in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, as well as for major science projects, environmental programs, and other projects of international concern.

Last month his government briefly considered a plan to introduce a new tax earmarked for international contributions. However, the idea was soon killed.

Any peace dividend resulting from the end of the cold war should be funneled to developing countries to help them overcome problems such as starvation, poverty, and refugees, Miyazawa said.

Turning to his trip to South Korea scheduled for next week, Miyazawa said he hopes to discuss future cooperation, given that Korea "is going to be a major presence in this region."

Miyazawa said he also hopes to discuss relations between the two Koreas and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and hear President No Tae-u's evaluation of North Korea's pledge to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Miyazawa: Maximum Concessions Made

OW1001075792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday Japan made the greatest possible concessions on trade issues during U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan this week.

In a brief chat with reporters at the prime minister's official residence, Miyazawa said U.S. car industry leaders cannot be dissatisfied because Japan "has done so much."

U.S. automotive industry executives accompanying Bush expressed dissatisfaction Thursday with Japanese pledges to buy more U.S. cars and car parts.

Miyazawa also brushed aside criticism the Japan-U.S. trade agreement is tantamount to managed trade.

"It is not managed trade but automakers set targets in attachments," he said referring to the Action Plan issued by Bush and Miyazawa Thursday. "Those are the plans of companies," he said.

Under the Action Plan, Japan pledged to increase imports of U.S.-made auto parts, more than doubling the fiscal 1990 level to 19 billion dollars in fiscal 1994.

Opposition Parties Critical

OW0901133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Five Japanese opposition parties accused Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Thursday of making too many concessions to U.S. President George Bush on trade matters.

The Social Democratic Party [SDP], the country's main opposition force, said in a statement that it was "not a good choice" that Japan and the United States attributed Japan-U.S. trade frictions to massive automobile trade deficits in Japan's favor.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana said the SDP will not support an agreement for Japan to buy more U.S.-made cars and auto parts to rectify the trade imbalance, adding that the increase in imports will sacrifice small subcontractors under giant Japanese car makers.

The SDP will also object to the idea of replacing Japan's rice import controls with tariffs if the summit adopts it, he said.

Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa said in a statement that Miyazawa did not clarify his position in the summit talks.

Japanese Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa accused the U.S. of forcing Japan to accept U.S. economic demands at the cost of the Japanese people.

Democratic Socialist Party Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa regretted that Japan and the U.S. failed to spell out ways to create a new international order in the Asia-Pacific region.

OTO on U.S. Imports Complaints

OW0901142592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1403 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Japan's Office of the Trade and Investment Ombudsman (OTO) announced Thursday the resolution of 73 of 86 complaints lodged by the United States over Japanese standards and certification systems relating to imports.

The announcement was made in connection with the global partnership "Action Plan" which was released at the end of the Japan-U.S. summit in Tokyo.

U.S. officials, however, had a different evaluation regarding resolution of their complaints, saying only 14 auto-related and 49 nonauto-related complaints have been resolved.

The difference in evaluation stems from a variation in the method of classification of products, OTO officials said.

The OTO said Japan negotiated with the United States on 80 of 86 complaints relating to imports of cars, processed food, pharmaceuticals, and other products. The other six were not negotiated on since contents of the complaints were unclear, OTO officials said.

Forty-nine complaints were resolved through Japanese efforts to improve market access and through resolution of U.S. misunderstandings, the officials said.

Japan refused to change its standards and certification systems regarding nine complaints, they said. On two of the nine complaints, however, U.S. negotiators accepted the Japanese position, the officials said.

Japan agreed to consider improving market access in connection with the 22 other complaints, they said.

At the summit Japan agreed to accept, under a special program designed to widen foreign access to Japanese markets, U.S. requests to raise the annual number of imports for any car model that are inspected under a so-called preferential handling procedure.

Under the agreement, the limit for any model subject to such inspections, currently at 1,000 a year, will be raised to 2,000 without condition, government officials said.

The ceiling will be temporarily raised to 3,000, on condition that the usual inspection procedure will apply when imports exceed that level.

Japan refused to accept a request for acceptance of U.S. exhaust emissions test results, citing possible adverse effects on the environment, the officials said.

But Japan agreed to accept U.S. test results if American test authorities use the same methods as in Japan.

Japanese exhaust emission standards are generally tighter than those in the United States, and U.S. officials have said they serve as a barrier to U.S. car imports.

Taizo Watanabe on Talks Results

OW0901190092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1234 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Interview with Taizo Watanabe, director general for Public Information and Cultural Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, by newscaster Tadashi Sonoda; from the "NHK News 21" program—live]

[Text] [Sonoda] Mr. Watanabe, I believe you are very busy now. Thank you for being with us.

[Watanabe] Not at all.

[Sonoda] I think the incident in which President Bush collapsed last night worried the Japanese side very much. Did it not affect the talks?

[Watanabe] At one time we were very worried. We were eating out at the time, but we hurried back to the office. I talked with Mr. Fitzwater and, after hearing that the President was all right, I felt relieved. Prime Minister Miyazawa sent a courteous letter of inquiry and Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato made a call of inquiry to Mr. Scowcroft. We found out that President Bush was doing all right—at least, that his condition was not serious. Well then, we should think of tomorrow. So, we were very much worried but, as was described in your program just now, I think it rather helped bring our talks with the U.S. side closer in a way.

[Sonoda] It is our impression that this time the U.S. side came with a considerably strong attitude regarding trade and economic issues, particularly those centering on automobile friction. What are your impressions?

[Watanabe] The latest Japanese-U.S. summit talks amounted to a task to put Japanese-U.S. relations, which are at a crossroads now, into some sort of framework. In building a new international order from this point onward, Japan and the United States should cooperate with each other. In doing so, however, the domestic economy in the United States has become an obstacle. Unless Japan does everything possible to help its economy, no one knows what will happen to the economies of Japan and the United States. Furthermore, it would hardly be possible for the United States to maintain its leadership. Apprehensive about these factors, both sides agreed to do everything in their power and reached the latest agreement. It has been said that the U.S. side made requests but, from the U.S. viewpoint, I think Americans feel that nearly everything surrounding them is a Toyota, Nissan, Sony, or some other Japanese product. In turn, I think they feel that they are continually losing to Japan. Under these circumstances, I think it was really important for Japan to show an attitude of extending cooperation to help the U.S. economy with true interest and so-called sympathy.

[Sonoda] We can understand that point very well. Nevertheless, there is criticism in Japanese business circles that the government has been too submissive to the U.S. side. What is your comment on this point?

[Watanabe] Both business leaders and I are quite aware of the fact that Japan turns a tidy profit from the U.S. market. I think that the business community wants to steer clear of a situation in which the U.S. market is closed to Japan for political and economic reasons. In this connection, Japan should try its best within the framework of the principle of free trade and of the GATT system, and the private sector should cooperate with the government to promote this policy. I believe that, after all, the policy is designed to benefit the private sector.

[Sonoda] In your honest opinion, considering your involvement in a series of Japanese-U.S. negotiations, do you think that bilateral relations have already passed a turning point? What is the future direction of bilateral relations, or what should be discussed in the future?

[Watanabe] As the cold war and the U.S.-Soviet confrontation come to an end, both of us are deeply concerned about the rise of revisionism in the United States during the Gulf war, and we are concerned about anti-U.S. sentiments in Japan. However, calm reflection convinced us of the absolute necessity of the Japanese- U.S. partnership. The world has many problems as the 21st century draws near. We both must have a common understanding of the point that the world will lose if the biggest economic power and the second-biggest fail in maintaining cooperative relations. I think that the two nations have established a favorable framework on this occasion. What we should work on in the future is how we promote cooperative relations within this framework.

[Sonoda] Thank you very much, Mr. Watanabe.

Business Leaders: Talks Successful

OW0901115692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Influential business leaders generally termed the Japan-U.S. summit a success Thursday but some expressed concern that high-handed U.S. approaches to trade issues had not allayed the sources of potential friction.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said steady progress was made toward solving pending issues between the two countries, and Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also said the summit was generally successful.

U.S. President George Bush, speaking at a joint news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday, called his trip a success.

After two rounds of talks focusing on trade issues, the two countries issued the Tokyo Declaration and global partnership plan of action, pledging close consultations on bilateral and international issues.

Japanese automakers offered major concessions, doubling the target of their purchases from U.S. suppliers to about 19 billion dollars in three years and promising to help their U.S. competitors increase car sales in Japan.

But Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), expressed concern whether the Japanese auto industry would make good its promise, which it was forced to make out of political rather than economic considerations.

Hiraiwa said the U.S. distrust of Japan will increase if the target cannot be achieved.

Both Hiraiwa and Ishikawa said Japan should do as much as it can to help the U.S. because the smooth relationship between the two countries is indispensable for world peace and stability.

Tomio Tatsuno, president of major general trading house Marubeni Corp., said the summit paved the way for further development of economic relations between the two countries.

Some other business executives summarized their advice to U.S. automakers by saying they should appeal to consumers instead of pressurizing the government if they want to sell their cars in Japan.

Honda Chief on U.S. Approach

OW0901083792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Nobuhiko Kawamoto, president of Honda Motor Co., on Thursday criticized the U.S. approach to solving the automobile trade dispute with Japan by political means.

"Direct negotiations between Japanese and U.S. automakers are the best way to solve it," he told a news conference.

Kawamoto's remark is regarded as being critical of the method employed by U.S. President George Bush to settle the dispute.

Bush brought with him a high-caliber business delegation, including senior executives of the "big three" U.S. automakers—General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler—on his current tour of Japan.

Kawamoto described Honda's 4.9 billion dollar target for procurement from U.S. suppliers for fiscal 1994 as the result of maximum efforts by his company.

It is up to the U.S. side whether they can benefit from them, he added.

Supercomputer Market Opening Urged

OW0901144792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Japanese computer makers called on the U.S. Government Thursday to apply the same rules that Tokyo has agreed to apply regarding procurement of foreign-made supercomputers.

During talks between Japanese and U.S. trade negotiators, Tokyo agreed to expand the open bidding for computers by the government and government-affiliated organizations.

The negotiations were held in conjunction with talks between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush.

While praising the establishment of rules on Tokyo's procurement of supercomputers, Japanese computer makers asserted that the United States, which they claim is closed to foreign makers, also apply the same rules.

According to Fujitsu Ltd., one of the bidding conditions that Washington sets when U.S. Government and municipal offices and government-affiliated organizations buy supercomputers is that the product be made in America.

The makers contend that Washington also hinders foreign access to the supercomputer market of the private sector.

The U.S. Government interfered with the sale by NEC Corp. to Massachusetts Institute of Technology of supercomputers just prior to their exchange of purchasing contracts four years ago, thus nullifying their agreement industry sources said.

As a result, Japanese computer makers have not supplied any supercomputers to either the U.S. Government or industry.

The industry sources claim that Cray Research Inc. has a virtual monopoly of the U.S. market, as well as a nearly 20 percent share of the Japanese market.

"It is only natural that the U.S. side simultaneously apply the latest rules agreed upon" by the U.S. and Japan, said Shigeo Muraoka, a Fujitsu managing director.

MITI Chief on Cutting Trade Gap

OW1001043892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Friday that the Japan-U.S. plan aimed at prying open Japan's automobile market will help reduce the bilateral trade imbalance.

Speaking at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, Watanabe described Thursday's agreement as the result of "an utmost decision" and noted that it marked a step toward reducing the trade gap.

Under the agreement, Japanese automobile manufacturers are to sell more U.S. cars in Japan while more than doubling their purchases of U.S.-made auto parts to 19 billion dollars in fiscal 1994 from 9 billion dollars in fiscal 1990.

"The United States looks dissatisfied and the Japanese auto industry itself appears frustrated," Watanabe said in reference to the agreement.

He stressed, however, that the agreement marked the start of further talks on rectifying the 41 billion dollar annual trade gap between Japan and the United States.

U.S. officials have said autos and auto parts account for three- quarters of the trade gap.

Auto Trade Talks Analyzed

OW1001090892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 10 Jan 92

["News Focus" by Rieko Saito: "Auto Trade Talks Leave Both Japan and U.S. Unhappy"]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Contentious automotive trade talks in Tokyo, orchestrated by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and President George Bush, have left both Japanese and U.S. industry leaders disgruntled and they say there is no clear agreement in sight.

Bush, who left for home Friday morning, declared his much-publicized and controversial trade mission a success. "I believe the U.S. Government and our business leaders have sent a strong message about the importance of fair access to markets," he said.

But senior U.S. trade officials and automotive industry leaders did not share the President's optimistic assessment of the Tokyo talks, refusing to describe the measures in the so-called Action Plan, one of Bush's few achievements during his visit to Japan, as an agreement.

The "Big Three" U.S. automakers—General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Corp.—and other U.S. automobile companies are "going to continue to press us for progress not only in the measures that have been laid out in the documents but also to go beyond that and see continued progress in opening up this market," a senior U.S. official told reporters.

GM Chairman Robert Stempel said after being briefed on the outcome of the official automotive trade talks with Japan that the Action Plan is "only the start of process."

Japanese car industry leaders countered that the U.S. car industry should stop whining about the Japanese market, pointing out that their European counterparts have invested heavily in establishing their own sales networks in Japan and have steadily boosted their market share.

"American understanding of Japan is shallow and there is a lot of misunderstanding," said Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Co. and chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA).

Under the Action Plan, Japanese automakers will procure 19 billion dollars worth of U.S.-made auto parts in fiscal 1994, more than double the fiscal 1990 total of 9 billion dollars.

Their U.S. subsidiaries will account for 15 billion dollars of the fiscal 1994 target, although it is not immediately clear how many jobs will be created or saved in the U.S. as a result of the new procurement policy.

Japan's major automakers also promised to open their dealership networks in Japan to U.S. cars.

The Japanese Fair Trade Commission has agreed to launch an investigation into "Keiretsu," or interlocking company ownership, in the automobile and auto parts industries. The U.S. complains that the system is an unfair trade practice.

What remains uncertain is to what extent the agreements can help narrow the annual U.S. trade deficit with Japan, now running at over 40 billion dollars. Trade in automobiles and auto parts accounts for three-quarters of the trade gap.

Both Japanese and U.S. trade officials maintain that the new automotive trade arrangements are solely "the voluntary plans" of the Japanese companies and do not constitute a form of "managed trade"—to which the Bush administration is strongly opposed but which it has accepted in practice.

"The Action Plan is the product of voluntary decisions by the Japanese auto industry in consideration of the gravity of Japan-U.S. relations," International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said at a news conference.

Whatever ramifications the procurement policy and other measures in the Action Plan might have, House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and other trade hawks in the U.S. Congress will try to undermine Bush's trade policy toward Japan, analysts say.

Appearing on U.S. Television while Bush was in Tokyo, Gephardt, a Democrat, said Japanese trade practices are "not compatible with the rest of the world's market."

Even Bush's chief trade negotiator, Carla Hills, told the same program that Japan "simply can't free-ride" on the world trading system of which Japan has been the major beneficiary.

Bush has invited Miyazawa to the U.S.—a move which some observers said is to make sure that Japan will abide by the commitments in the Action Plan. A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said Miyazawa will go to Washington in early May.

After his talks with Miyazawa, Bush said the U.S. has successfully negotiated nearly a dozen trade agreements with Japan under his three-year-old administration.

"This trip adds another significant but interim step to that progress," he said. He said the U.S. "will be pressing ahead and monitoring progress" in how the agreements are fulfilled.

Official Use of U.S. Autos Studied

OW1001044592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda said Friday his ministry is studying the possibility of using imported U.S. automobiles as official government cars.

Okuda told a press conference that people should not just criticize American cars for allegedly having poor gas mileage but instead the country should try them out as official government cars.

The Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry each are using four American cars but the Transport Ministry is not currently using any non-Japanese automobiles.

With regard to the problem of certification of foreign cars, Okuda said almost all the issues raised by the United States were solved except those relating to environmental standards and the U.S. was accepting this.

Hata Says Bush Visit Success

OW1001045192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries will likely hold a meeting of their finance ministers and central bankers in Washington on January 25.

He did not say what topics would be on the agenda at the meeting.

Hata also said at a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the republics of the former Soviet Union should be allowed to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Several of the republics, including the largest, the Russian Federation, have expressed hopes of joining the world lending organization to seek financial help.

Asked about the U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan, Hata said the presidential visit was a "success" despite the president's sickness.

The talks between U.S. and Japanese leaders underscored that the economies of the developed countries should remain robust to shore up the sagging world economy.

He cited the macroeconomics statement released Wednesday by Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as a "noteworthy event."

The statement calls on leading industrial countries to do their best to contribute to strengthening the slowing world economy, he said.

Stressing, however, that the economic fundamentals differ from country to country, Hata said any excessive economic policy to boost economic growth would be counterproductive.

"Each country should do its utmost according to its fundamentals," he said.

Bush left for home on Friday morning after a four-nation Asia-Pacific tour that took him to Australia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan.

NHK Censured for Unauthorized Video of Bush

OW1001115492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The prime minister's office has lodged a protest with the NHK television network for its unauthorized broadcast of U.S. President George Bush collapsing at a banquet Wednesday, officials said Friday.

An official of the office's press section said NHK—Japan Broadcasting Corp.—had violated a verbal agreement that it would broadcast only the speeches by Bush and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and a toast.

He said he told executives in charge of the NHK program that the national television network would be barred from making live broadcasts of banquets at the prime minister's official residence in the future.

"If the media doesn't keep its promises, we will not be able to maintain order," said a press section official who declined to be identified.

He said such unauthorized tapings could invade individual privacy if cameras recorded private conversations among banquet guests.

"Just because there is freedom of the media doesn't mean they can do anything," he said, adding that he thought it was impolite to air footage of the disheveled President.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato could override the ban, the press section official said.

An NHK public relations officer said technicians were preparing for a live broadcast scheduled for 8:30 P.M. Wednesday when they noticed Bush had collapsed under the table, and started taping the scene with an unmanned camera.

He said the video was broadcast 45 minutes later after the tape was distributed to other television stations for which NHK was serving as representative.

The footage of Bush being propped up by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa after he slumped under the head table at 8:19 P.M. was shown by television networks worldwide.

Bush, who wound up a 12-day Asia-Pacific tour and departed for home Friday, attributed his collapse to a bout of the 24-hour flu.

NHK normally does not broadcast dinners given at the prime minister's residence, but has in the past broadcast live coverage of state banquets at the Imperial Palace in honor of dignitaries such as former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and South Korean President No Tae-u. NHK was allowed Thursday to broadcast the banquet given by Emporer Akihito for Bush at the palace.

Imported Car Sales Said To Fall in 1991

OW0901093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Sales of imported vehicles in 1991 fell 10.7 percent from the preceding year to 199,922 units, but still stood at the second highest level on record, the Japan Automobile Importers Association reported Thursday.

Passenger cars accounted for 197,184 units, down 11.1 percent from the year before, the association said.

German products continued to dominate the imported vehicle market with sales totaling 119,573 units, compared with 32,230 U.S.-made vehicles, the association said.

Mercedes-Benz was the best-selling cars with sales totaling 34,187 units, accounting for 17.34 percent of the imported car market, followed by BMW with 33,798 units for a 17.14 percent market share.

General Motors Corp. led U.S. automakers with sales totaling 9,261 units, up 8.8 percent over a year earlier, followed by Ford Co. with 2,959 units, down 51 percent, and Chrysler Corp. with 1,491 units, up 4.1 percent, the association said.

December sales of imported vehicles plunged 16.6 percent from a year earlier to 19,070 units.

Passenger cars accounted for 18,784 units, down 17.1 percent, the association said.

Honda To Cut First Quarter Car Production

OW0901114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Honda Motor Co. said Thursday it will curtail automobile production in Japan and the United States between January and March due to a slump in sales in both the Japanese and U.S. markets.

Honda will cut automobile production by 55,000 units—45,000 in Japan, including 15,000 for export to the U.S., and 10,000 in the U.S.—during the three-month period, the company said.

Honda said its automobile sales in the home market totaled 678,684 units in 1991, down 1.1 percent from the previous year and the first yearly decline in seven years.

Exports of Honda cars, mostly to the U.S., also decreased 7.4 percent to 662,409 units, Honda said.

The sluggish car sales forced the company to revise downward its business forecast for fiscal 1991, which ends on March 31.

Honda forecast pretax profit of 63.2 billion yen for the fiscal year, down 13.7 percent from its initial forecast last November, on sales of 2,916.6 billion yen, down 1.7 percent.

Toray To Expand Polyester Film Production

OW0901074892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0636 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Toray Industries Inc., one of the world's top makers of synthetic fibers, will expand its production of polyester films at its wholly owned subsidiary in the United States, the company announced Thursday.

Toray is scheduled to increase production at its Rhode Island subsidiary, Toray Plastics (America) Inc., from an annual output of 8,000 tons to 20,000 tons in March 1994, resulting in annual global production capacity of 108,000 tons.

The increase will make Toray the world's largest manufacturer of polyester films, the company said.

High-performance polyester films are primarily used in the magnetic materials field, including video and audio tape, floppy disks, and computer memory tape.

Toray decided to increase production in the United States because of the expansion of high-performance film demand there and in European markets backed by the presence of Japanese video tape makers, it said.

Matsushita To Give Technology to Foreign Firms

OW1001121092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 10 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. unveiled plans Friday to provide foreign companies with its technology for development of electronic components in order to contribute to Japan's international industrial cooperation.

Matsushita President Akio Tanii made the disclosure in announcing the company's business strategy for 1992.

He told reporters that Japanese electronics manufacturers should cooperate with their U.S. and European counterparts in research and development. Otherwise, he said, the Japanese companies' technical edge over their Western rivals would widen further.

Tanii, citing Matsushita's new flat cathode-ray tube television as an example, said high-performance components are essential to the development of successful electronic products.

U.S. and European companies lack technical know-how for development of such components, he added.

Tanii also said Japanese electronics companies now should place more emphasis on qualitative improvement, rather than quantitative expansion, in their strategies.

Farm Group Urges Refusing Rice Tariffication

OW0901145192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—A major Japanese farm group urged the government Thursday to continue refusing to change its ban on rice imports to tariffs, as proposed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) noted that Japan and the United States declared Thursday that the GATT proposal was "not a final text."

In a "Global Partnership Plan of Action" issued at the end of the bilateral summit in Tokyo, Japan and the United States said they were "continuing to analyze and assess the document," which calls for tariffication of farm imports without exception.

GATT's trade negotiations committee resumes negotiations next week on the proposal, made by GATT Chief Arthur Dunkel.

Zenchu said it believes that the Japanese Government's policy of refusing tariffication remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, Yoshihiro Hamaguchi, vice minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, said the action plan confirmed the Japanese position that the Dunkel proposal is not final.

He also quoted U.S. officials as saying it is natural for Japan to object to the proposal.

Hamaguchi said he believes the United States is also likely to demand modification of the proposal regarding nonfarm trade.

Farm Minister Reiterates Rice Tariff Opposition

OW1001043392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0332 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Farm Minister Masami Tanabu reiterated Friday that Japan will oppose a proposal to replace nontariff trade barriers with tariffs in connection with its policy of virtually banning rice imports.

Tanabu, who is minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, made the remark to reporters after a cabinet session Friday morning.

"We are not opposed to the proposal entirely, but we cannot give in on the issue of tariffication without exception," he said, referring to a proposal aimed at breaking the impasse in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The proposal, put forward by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), called for tariffs to replace nontariff import barriers.

Negotiations on farm trade are scheduled to resume in Geneva next week.

Kanemaru Urges Government To Open Rice Market

OW1001104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The new vice president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) urged the government Friday to open the Japanese rice market to foreign growers.

"I have recommended that (the government) positively open Japan's rice market," Shin Kanemaru, who assumed the LDP vice presidency Wednesday, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at the party's headquarters.

Kanemaru said he will push for a government decision to liberalize the rice market. "I will state my own opinion (of opening the market), whenever and wherever," he said.

Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister and one of the LDP's political power brokers, was instrumental in pushing Kiichi Miyazawa to the prime ministership last November.

As head of the LDP's largest faction, Kanemaru endorsed Miyazawa to succeed Toshiki Kaifu as LDP president and prime minister.

Kanemaru said Japan should observe the Japan-U.S. joint statement, called the "Tokyo Declaration," issued by Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush on Thursday.

In the declaration, the two countries gave an evaluation of a final draft to the Uruguay round of multinational trade talks pushing for tariffication of all farm products.

Kanemaru called for a coalition government with the three major opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and Democratic Socialist Party—to overcome national difficulties.

"Who can find such a No. 1 opposition party in the world, which has no intention of coming into power?" Kanemaru said, speaking of the Social Democratic Party.

Kanemaru also rejected the possiblity of holding simultaneous elections for the House of Representatives and House of Councillors this year. The upper house elections are slated for this summer.

Yokohama Company To Propose New Ports in Russia

OW0901150692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Yokohama, Jan. 9 KYODO—A Japanese International Cargo Transport Company will propose the construction of two new ports in the Russian Far East, the head of Jeuro Container Transport Inc. said Thursday.

Takashi Miyamoto, president of Yokohama-based Jeuro, a pioneer in cargo transport between the Far East and Europe via the Siberian railway, made the remark in an interview with KYODO News Service.

He said his company has been asked by the Russian Transport Ministry to make suggestions on the proposed construction of more international trade ports in the Far Eastern region.

Miyamoto said the port construction project will be discussed January 27 in Khabarovsk with the Russian railway and port authorities.

He said the Russian Far East has three international trade ports. If the naval port of Vladivostok is opened to private trade, the existing ports will not be enough to handle quickly increasing amounts of cargo, Miyamoto said.

He said he has decided to advise the Russian authorities to open two more international ports southwest of Vladivostok—in Slavyanka and Posyet.

Miyamoto said that to save port construction and cargo-handling costs, his firm will also propose operating ferries that carry loaded railway freight cars between Siberian ports and Niigata on the Japan sea coast and Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture, in Japan.

Tokyo Accepts Russian Seat on Security Council

OW1001084192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Japan has no qualms about the Russian Federation assuming the former Soviet Union's permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council without a revision of the U.N. Charter, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Japanese officials do not think the Russian move must be sanctioned by a revision of the charter, which says the seat is to be held by the Soviet Union, said spokesman Taizo Watanabe.

"That is something we have accepted," he told a group of foreign correspondents after explaining that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may not be able to break away from Diet proceedings to attend a Security Council summit meeting on the issue January 30.

Watanabe said Russia's assumption of the seat is taken as "de facto and de jure."

Japan, now occupying one of the 10 nonpermanent, rotating seats on the 15-seat council, is quietly campaigning for a permanent seat, which would entail a revision of the charter.

It has been more vocal in seeking a charter revision to remove two clauses that indirectly brand Japan and other defeated countries in World War II as enemy states.

Some Japanese observers have speculated Japan might exploit the question of the former Soviet seat on the council to press for a charter revision.

The five countries now holding permanent council seats—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, and France—have adamantly opposed any revision of the charter, fearing it could open a Pandora's box of claims from large countries like Japan, India, and Brazil who oppose the current makeup of the council.

Russia, after sending a letter to the U.N. Secretariat claiming itself the legitimate successor of the Soviet Union, has effectively taken over the Soviet Security Council seat without opposition from other permanent members.

Miyazawa in November called for a revision of the council to prevent a loss of international confidence in the U.N., saying the more important the U.N's role becomes, "the more it must act as a fair mouthpiece for each country."

Japan's U.N. Ambassador Yoshio Hatano said last month Japan is set to campaign in the U.N. for a permanent council seat within five years.

Conversion of Soviet Weapons Plants Planned

OW1001105292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) disclosed plans Friday to hold a seminar in Vladivostok in the Russian far east in mid-February on converting military production facilities in the former Soviet Union to civilian use.

The Japanese Association for Trade with the Soviet Union and Socialist Countries of Europe, an industry group, will join MITI in sending a survey mission to the Russian Far East and holding the seminar, MITI officials said.

Local authorities in the Russian Far East will cosponsor the seminar, the officials said.

The plans are based on the global partnership plan of action announced Thursday at the end of the Japan-U.S. summit in Tokyo.

The document pledged, among other things, Japanese and U.S. efforts to assist in converting military production facilities in the former Soviet Union to civil use as part of a broader transition to less military oriented societies.

The Japanese mission is expected to tour the sea port, the airport, and other infrastructure facilities in Vladivostok and study the feasibility of such a conversion, the officials said.

Most of the military production facilities in the former Soviet Union have technical development and designing operations in Moscow and other parts of the Eastern Europe region of the former Soviet Union.

Such facilities in the Russian Far East have less-advanced technology and obsolescent production equipment, the officials said.

Vladivostok is expected to develop as the trading center of the Russian Far East, they said.

Delegation Leaves for PRC, Thailand, Cambodia

OW1001043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe left Narita International Airport on Friday for Beijing on an eight-day tour of China, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Tanabe is leading a 12-member delegation which includes Kosuke Uehara, foreign minister of the No. 1 opposition party's shadow cabinet.

In China, Tanabe will meet Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, and other leaders.

He is also scheduled to meet Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk on Tuesday.

Tanabe intends to make clear the party's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region during the tour, and will exchange views with leaders of the three nations on a new international order in Asia and measures to rebuild war-torn Cambodia, SDP officials said.

Miyazawa Asked To Meet Former ROK 'Victims'

OW0901150992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 KYODO—A representative of South Koreans who were victimized by the Japanese during their colonial rule of the Korean peninsula on Thursday asked Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to meet former "comfort women" during his visit to Seoul next week.

At a press conference, the representative of the Pacific War victims and bereaved families group said that Miyazawa should get first-hand knowledge of Japan's colonial rule by meeting the women, who were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers.

He said that if Miyazawa wishes, 11 former comfort women are ready to meet him. Miyazawa will visit South Korea from Thursday to Saturday next week as his first overseas tour since taking office in November.

In a related development, the South Korean Foreign Ministry called on the Japanese Government to respond sincerely to compensation demands by the former comfort women.

The ministry called in Jun Kawashima, minister at the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, and made the request.

Some 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea, are believed to have been forced to become comfort women for Japanese soldiers.

Kanemaru: DPRK Party Official To Visit U.S.

OW1001123792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—A senior official of North Korea's governing Korean Workers Party will visit the United States on January 20, the new vice president of Japan's Ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Friday.

While in the U.S., Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the North Korean party, will meet with Undersecretary of State Robert Zoellick, LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru said.

Zoellick informed Kanemaru of the schedule Wednesday during a dinner in honor of U.S. President George Bush given by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Zoellick told Kanemaru the meeting initially was set for January 16 but was postponed at the request of North Korea, Kanemaru said.

On Wednesday, Brent Scowcroft, assistant to the President for national security affairs, said at a press conference that Washington may upgrade dialogue with Pyongyang and initiate assistant secretary level talks.

On Tuesday, North Korea said it will sign a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in late January and ratify it at the earliest opportunity.

MITI Chief Leaves for UK, Gulf Area, Germany

OW1001042292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0330 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe left Friday for a tour of three Middle East nations to strengthen ties with Japan's major oil suppliers.

Watanabe's 10-day trip to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which supply 40 percent of Japan's crude oil, marks the first visit to the Middle East by a Japanese Cabinet minister since the Persian Gulf war a year ago.

Because of the recent demise of the Soviet Union, formerly the largest oil producer in the world, the trip is seen as an effort to secure a stable supply of crude oil from the three nations.

After a stopover in London on Saturday for a meeting with his British counterpart, Peter Lilley, Watanabe will continue on to Saudi Arabia, carrying with him a letter from Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa inviting King Fahd to visit Japan.

He will also reaffirm friendly ties with the UAE in a courtesy call on the president, Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and will pledge Japanese aid for the reconstruction of war-devastated Kuwait in a meeting with Shayk Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The remainder of Watanabe's trip will include meetings with oil and industry leaders, and key ministers from the three countries.

Prior to returning to Japan, he will stop over in Germany for talks with German Economics Minister Jurgen Mollemann.

LDP Diet Affairs Committee Head To Resign

OW0901054892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0518 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Hiroyuki Masuoka agreed in principle to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's Thursday urging that he resign as chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Diet Affairs Committee, party sources said.

Miyazawa urged Masuoka, who belongs to the party's Miyazawa faction, to become deputy secretary general of the party, the sources said.

Shin Kanemaru, the power broker who agreed Wednesday to take the post of the party vice president, was dissatisfied with Masuoka's management of Diet business and pressed Miyazawa to reshuffle the Diet Affairs Committee, the sources said.

Miyazawa plans to pick Masuoka's successor from the party's largest faction, founded by former prime minister Noboru Takeshita, with Seiroku Kajiyama, former chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee, apparently tapped as the successor, the sources said.

Move Toward Reorganizing Financial Market Made

OW1001105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has moved to speed up reorganization of Japan's financial market through a revision of the existing banking law which would remove some restrictions on banking operations, ministry sources said Friday.

The sources said the ministry will submit a bill revising the Law on Amalgamation and Conversion of Financial Institutions to the next regular Diet session which opens in February. If approved, the bill would be enacted in the spring of 1993.

The existing law was put in place in June 1968 to regulate banking operations in order to maintain fair competition and order in the financial market.

The law prohibits mergers between ordinary banks and specialized financial institutions such as long-term credit and foreign exchange banks.

It also bars the conversion of specialized institutions into ordinary banks.

The sources said the proposed revision, the first to be made since December 1983, will remove these restrictions, enabling financial institutions to merge or change at their own discretion.

Long-term credit banks and foreign exchange banks are unique among Japanese financial institutions since there are specific laws governing their operations.

Currently, the specialized banks alone are allowed to issue debentures to raise operating funds on the market, but there are strict controls on their specific operations including the number of branches they are allowed to maintain.

Under the new law, an ordinary commercial bank merging with a specialized institution will be allowed to float debentures, the sources said.

However, the law will continue to prohibit the conversion of ordinary banks into long-term credit and foreign exchange banks, the sources said.

Yasuda Confident of 3.5 Percent Economic Growth

OW1001120492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Japan will be able to achieve 3.5 percent economic growth in fiscal 1992 unless something unexpected happens to hamper the expansion, a top official of the Finance Ministry said Friday.

At a news conference, Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda said the sagging economy will be propped up by falling interest rates and bulky outlays for public works projects which are included in the fiscal 1992 draft budget, which is yet to be approved by the Diet.

"I don't think it likely that Japan's economic growth will sharply fall short of the 3.5 percent government projection," he said.

But he pointed out that the 3.5 percent target is just a projection and not a commitment for the government.

Yasuda also said macroeconomic coordination among major industrial countries will be a main topic at an expected meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from Group of Seven (G-7) countries.

He said the macroeconomic statement released Wednesday by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush will likely set the tone for the meeting.

The statement stressed the importance of healthy economic growth in major industrial countries, especially in the United States and Japan, in order to boost the faltering world economy.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said earlier in the day that the G-7 meeting will probably be held on January 25 in the U.S.

Yasuda said, however, that it is not in the cards that each G-7 country will be required to make a concrete economic policy commitment to strengthen the world economy.

Sakigake Space Probe Enters New Orbit

OW0801235392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—A Japanese space probe made its nearest approach to the earth Wednesday since being launched seven years ago and changed orbit to assume a new mission, Japanese scientists said.

The "Sakigake" approached the earth to a distance of 90,000 kilometers over the Indian Ocean at 11 P.M. Wednesday Japan time [1400 GMT, 8 January] and entered a new orbit, similar to the earth's around the sun.

The space probe of the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science, which earlier observed Halley's Comet, will observe a magnetic field around the earth and solar winds, the scientists said.

Observation equipment on the probe is functioning normally, they said.

NEC Links 3-D Graphics, Network Communications

OW0901084192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—NEC Corp. has linked three-dimensional graphics with network communications, enabling computer users in different places to simultaneously talk and work on a product design, company officials said Thursday.

Computer users in Tokyo and Osaka can access the same virtual reality world and manipulate the same three-dimensional objects on a display screen at the same time, officials said.

Virtual reality is a new medium that projects computer users into a 3-D space generated by a computer.

Using devices such as data gloves that convert movement into computer data, users can pick up and move pieces of a design as well as see their own hands move on a display screen.

Until now, virtual reality processing and data transmissions have been hampered by slow computer processing speeds.

NEC surmounted the problem by developing the technology to cut, separate and compose objects on a display screen while minimizing the amount of data transmitted on the communications network, officials said.

The company demonstrated the system using state-of-the-art graphics workstations, data gloves, and other devices connected to a communications network to produce, send and manipulate objects on the screen.

Although the company has no plans to market the system soon, officials said it could be ideal for use in the automobile and aircraft industries since design work on a single project often takes place at several locations in a country.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Denounces U.S. President

SK1001105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 10 Jan 92

["U.S. Must Pull Its Occupation Forces Out of South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today denounces U.S. President Bush who, during his recent trip to Seoul, "reconfirmed U.S. commitment to security" of South Korea and blared that the U.S. Forces would continue to be present in South Korea as long as the South Korean people "want" it.

This tells that there is no change in the U.S. Korea policy, the author of the article says, and goes on:

There is no ground and reason for the U.S. Forces to remain in South Korea.

The U.S. allegation that its forces are kept in South Korea because the South Korean people want it is a nonsense.

The South Korean people are vigorously conducting the anti-U.S. movement for independence and reunification and strongly demanding the withdrawal of U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons.

The U.S. imperialists, describing their forces in South Korea as a "war deterrent" and "peace-keeping forces" contributing to "peace" and security of Northeast Asia including the Korean peninsula, are noisily advertising that an untoward event would happen on the Korean peninsula immediately the U.S. forces are withdrawn from there.

The United States has clamored about the "threat from the North" in a bid to continue its policy of occupation of South Korea and justify its moves for another war.

In recent years they, trying to attach authenticity to their talk about fictitious "threat," invented a lie about the North's "development of nuclear weapons" and put a grave military pressure upon us over the "nuclear inspection". They also made another war against the North a fait accompli and concluded with the South Korean puppets the "Wartime Support Agreement", a document of war.

Recalling that at the end of last year the North and the South of Korea adopted "agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and cooperation and exchange between the North and the South" and agreed to publish a "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula", the article says:

Under such conditions, somebody's "demand", "war deterrent" and "threat from the North" the U.S. imperialists have talked about in an effort to keep their forces in South Korea could no longer go down with anybody.

It is high time the United States rectified its anachronistic policy toward Korea and Asia.

The United States must conclude a peace agreement with us, promptly take a step to withdraw its forces from South Korea and no longer interfere in the reunification affair of Korea. And it must stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a nuclear attack game against the North, not only this year but for good and all, and also discontinue all other military exercises such as "Rimpac" and "Eagle".

Report of Chemical Weapons Production Refuted

SK1001112692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The British JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY on January 8 spread a false report about the production of poison gas, saying "there are chemical arms manufacturers in North Korea."

This is an unfounded false propaganda.

The British weekly carried the false report vilifying us at a time when the situation on the Korean peninsula and the inter-Korean relations were tending toward peace and reunification. This cannot be construed otherwise than an insidious attempt to tarnish the image of our republic and impair its authority and prestige rising with every passing day on the international scene.

Already long ago, our republic declared that it would refrain from testing, production, stockpiling and deployment of chemical weapons and has made consistent efforts to this end. Our republic which respects international law and has faithfully observed it has never produced chemical weapons which would bring a scourage upon mankind, nor has it any factory producing such weapons.

Judging from the fact that the British weekly spread a false report, failing to properly assess the developments in the world and the situation on the Korean peninsula that are moving toward detente and peace, it is obvious that it is working to supply water to the water mill of those who are scheming to attain sinister aims.

Why should the JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY fail to mention even a word about some 10 poison gas factories in South Korea which actually exist and about 25,000 boxes of chemical weapons of some 10 kinds of South Korea and Japan including poison gas which were disclosed by the United States?

The JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, bribed by a few dollars, spread the false report against our Republic, quoting an "information report" of Pentagon and the like in an effort to give authenticity to the report, but it would gain nothing from it.

It would be well advised to desist from such a foolish false propaganda aimed at misleading the world opinion with an absolute baloney.

Reunification Committee Urges Release of Prisoners

SK1001050692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities, instead of resorting to suppression and confrontation against the desire of the nation, must release without delay all the people who visited the North or met with compatriots from the North abroad and patriotic-minded students who sent their representatives to Pyongyang for reunification and must take a stand of honestly carrying the North-South agreement into effect in the intersts of the nation.

The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] said this in its Information No. 604 [as received] released Thursday.

On January 7, the South Korean authorities sentenced student Kim Chong-sik, chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), to a prison term of six years and a four-year term of suspension of qualification on the charge of the violation of the "National Security Law". He had been arrested after he sent Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung to the North as representatives of Chondaehyop to discuss the matter of successfully holding a grand reunification festival of students in the North, South and overseas and thus make a contribution to national reunification. This unpardonable anti-national crime of the South Korean authorities shows that they are persistently inciting North-South confrontation and suppressing the movement for reunification, the information said, and continued:

To struggle for national reunification in a divided country is the obligation of every member of the nation and an expression of patriotism. It is righteous and just in every respect and it cannot be criminalized.

At a time when North-South relations are taking a favorable turn and the situation is also developing in favor of reunification, the South Korean authorities perpetrated an anti-national, anti-reunification act going against the developments. This fully reveals that they have neither intention for reunification nor willingness to implement the inter-Korean agreement.

It is a daydream to stifle the patriotic movement for reunification through intensified suppression and obstruct reunification by fostering confronation.

No matter how desperately they may intensify the suppression and incite confronation, they cannot break the unshakable will of the whole nation for reunification.

Daily on Sentencing of South's Chondaehyop Member

SK1001053392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group brought Kim Chong-sik, chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), to a trial on the charge of the violation of the "National Security Law" and committed a fascist act of imposing a prison term of six years and a four-year term of suspension of qualification upon him.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says this makes us skeptical of the south Korean rulers' attitude toward the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement.

The analyst further says:

It is natural in every respect that Chondaehyop sent its delegates to the North, showing its will to become a vanguard for national reunification as an organization of students which is responsible for the future of the country and the nation. When they were abroad and in the northern half of the country, delegates Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung contributed to encouraging the fellow countrymen's desire for reunification and promoting national reconciliation, unity and reunification as a "spark of reunification".

The activities of Chondaehyop and its delegates are patriotic deeds worthy of praise by anyone desirous of reunification. If the puppets truly want reunification, they must laud and actively encourage the righteous activities of students and, if they are unwilling to do so, must refrain, at least, from suppressing them.

The outrage of the puppets is all the more unpardonable because it was committed after the adoption of the North-South agreement in which both sides agreed to reconcile themselves to and unite with each other and solve the reunification question.

The South Korean rulers must not confine themselves to talking about "reconciliation", "reunification" and "implementation of the agreement" but demonstrate their will for reunification to the fellow countrymen by scrapping the "National Security Law" and releasing all the arrested champions of reunification and democracy including those who visited the North and Kim Chong-sik.

Creating Premise for Peaceful Reunification Urged

SK0601112992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 6 Jan 92

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Creating Peaceful Preconditions for National Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—The important thing to be settled primarily in achieving national reunification lies in creating the peaceful premise for reunification, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article goes on:

Unless the peace problem is not settled at an early date it is impossible to save the nation from the danger of a nuclear war, and unless the military confrontation is not removed it is impossible to achieve national reconciliation and unity realize the cooperation and exchange. This means that the peace problem on the Korean peninsula is the most urgent task that must be settled primarily by the North and the South for the reunification of the country and the safety of the nation.

Since the North and the South, last year, agreed to nonaggression and confirmed their common will to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula a new breakthrough has been made in easing the tensions, preventing the danger of another war and ensuring durable peace in our country.

In order to honestly implement the agreement on nonaggression, the two sides should, as stipulated in the agreement, renounce the use of arms against each other, settle the difference in views and disputes peacefully through dialogue and negotiation and promptly take measures for the building of military confidence and disarmament. And they must adopt and publish a "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" at an early date, as already agreed upon.

The South Korean authorities, for the present, must take a measure to discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for this year. Whether they stop "Team Spirit" this year or not will be a touchstone showing whether or not they truly intend to honor their commitment to nonaggression and ensure peace.

In recent years the United States, claiming that the Korean peninsula is a place fraught with the greatest danger of war in the world, is intensifying its aggressive and belligerent moves and further aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

It is an anachronistic way of thinking to deal with the Korean problem from the position of strength still now when the antagonistic relationship between the East and the West has ended and the tendency towards a peaceful reunification within our nation is growing stronger.

The U.S., responsible for the tensions increasing on the Korean peninsula, must take steps for the withdrawal of its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea since the North and the South adopted the important agreement including nonaggression.

And it must renounce its old viewpoint of the cold war era in keeping with the trend of the times towards independence and detente, stop its moves straining the situation on the Korean peninsula over the nuclear inspection and, for the present, take a step to discontinue the "Team Spirit" nuclear war gamble.

SKNDF Statement Hails Kim Il-song's Speech

SK1001045192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Kim Kwang-chon, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon), issued a statement on January 6, warmly hailing the New Year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as a great program of national reunification which brightly indicated once again a short cut to an early reunification based on the principle of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, according to the radio "Voice of National Salvation from Seoul". He said: Hanminjon will wage an extensive anti-U.S. movement for independence and reunification to put an end to the U.S. colonial domination and restore national independence with the unshakable faith that the reunification question can be settled in conformity with the will and interest of all the fellow countrymen only when the principle of national independence is firmly maintained. The South Korean authorities who signed the North-South agreement embodying the principle of national independence should rid themselves of pro-American flunkeyist consciousness, show sincerity in the implementation of the agreement and totally stop such anti- national criminal acts as suppressing the struggle of the people of all strata to reunify the country independently. Noting that Hanminjon will wage a powerful struggle to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, a peace zone under the slogan of anti-U.S. independence, he said that it will wage a nationwide movement to get the U.S. forces withdrawn from South Korea, the "Wartime Support Agreement" abolished and the nuclear war exercises discontinued, thus putting a period to the U.S. military domination over South Korea.

Daily Notes Guideline in Achieving Reunification

SK0701111992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 7 Jan 92

["Highly Important Guideline Indicating Correct Way of Implementing North-South Agreement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article under the headline "Highly Important Guideline Indicating Correct Way of Implementing North-South Agreement", which says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that the North and the South must adhere to the independent stand in order to faithfully carry into reality the North-South agreement in keeping with the aspiration of the whole nation and the expectation of the world people on the basis of the three principles of national reunification. This is a highly important guideline indicating the most correct way of facilitating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country through the sincere implementation of the North-South agreement.

Comrade Kim Il-song said in his New Year address:

"The independent stand is a fundamental position that must firmly be held to in effecting the North-South agreement and in bringing about the reunification cause".

As taught by the great leader, if the North-South agreement is to be fully carried out on the basis of the three principles of national reunification, the independent stand must firmly be held to.

To firmly adhere to this stand in implementing the North-South agreement and realizing the cause of national reunification is an indispensable requisite emanating from the nature of the reunification question of our country. The reunification question of our country is, in essence, an internal affair of the nation entirely related to the right to self-determination of the Korean nation because it is a matter of fulfilling the task of national liberation and realising independence of the Korean nation, not solving any class contradiction within our nation or institutional antagonism. It is self-evident that the question of national reunification, the internal affair of the nation, cannot be solved properly in reliance upon outside forces.

To maintain the independent stand is the starting point in the struggle for national reunification. The division of our country was caused by outside forces.

The driving force for the reunification of the country is the Korean nation. Apart from the responsibility and role of the Korean nation, the driving force for the reunification, no problem with regard to national reunification can be settled in the interests and demands of our nation.

The great leader's policy of firmly maintaining the independent stand in implementing the North-South agreement is a highly important guideline to accelerate national reunification by successfully implementing the July 4 joint statement the keynote of which is the three principles of national reunification and the latest North-South agreement in keeping with the will and aspiration of our nation.

Dependence on outside forces leads to national ruin and division, and national independence leads to patriotism and reunification.

All the Koreans in the North, South and abroad must pool their will, minds and efforts and turn out as one in the struggle for national reunification, regarding the great leader's idea of national independence as a guideline.

New Yemeni Envoy Arrives in Pyongyang

*SK0701050392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 7 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—Newly Appointed Yemeni Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Korea Husayn Tahir Muhammad ibn Yahya, arrived Monday in Pyongyang by air.

Calls on Kim Yong-nam

*SK1001051692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0430 GMT 10 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Thursday met and conversed with newly appointed Yemeni Ambassador to Korea Husayn Tahir Muhammad ibn Yahya when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

WPK Sends Lebanese Communist Party Greetings

*SK0901113592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1038 GMT 9 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the sixth congress of the Communist Party of Lebanon [CPL].

The message says the sixth congress of the CPL will mark an important milestone in further strengthening the party organizationally and ideologically and rousing the entire party members to the fulfilment of the party's future tasks under the changed situation at home and abroad.

Wishing the CPL success in its sixth congress, the message expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations forged between the two parties will grow stronger and develop in the future on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Kim Il-song Receives More New Year's Greeting

*SK1001052992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0413 GMT 10 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received messages of greetings on the occasion of the New Year 1992 from Rene Mauge Moskera, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador; Victor Voichita, chairman of the New Socialist Party of Romania; Chairman Vassos Lyssarides and Secretary General Takis Hadjidemetriou of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus; Genro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru and chairman of the United Left of Peru; Vitor Oliva Miguel, general secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru; Walid Jumblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon; general secretary Alvaro Vasquez del Real and International Secretary Ovidio Malulandas of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia; and John George Melvin Compton, prime minister of Saint Lucia. They wished the Korean people success and prosperity in the new year under the wise leadership of president Kim Il-song and expressed the hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and their countries and between the Workers' Party of Korea and their parties would strengthen and develop.

Kim Chong-il, Foreign Leaders Exchange Cards

*SK0901045292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0433 GMT 9 Jan 92*

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged new year's cards with party and state leaders of different countries on the occasion of the new year 1992.

Among them are Deng Xiaoping, former president of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China; Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China; and other senior party and state cadres of China; Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam; Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique; Pierre Buyoya, chairman of the Central Committee of the Burundi Party of Union of National Progress and president of the Republic of Burundi; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda; Ya'qub Zayadin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party; Eriya Kategaya, national political commissar of the National Resistance Movement of Uganda and first vice-premier of the Republic of Uganda; Ilie Verdet, president of the Direction of the Socialist Workers' Party of Romania; Branko Kitanovic, general secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement; and Phoumi Vongvichit, advisor of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Comrade Kim Chong-il received greetings from Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, president of the Mongolian People's Republic, on the occasion of the new year.

Workers Party Thanks GFTUK Central Committee

SK0901121492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] Upholding the party's intention, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea [GFTUK] Central

Committee is actively conducting political propaganda and economic agitations at the main working sites of the people's economy and is strengthening the socialist economic movement, thus encouraging people to increase production.

Functionaries of the GFTUK Central Committee came to the Musan mining complex last March to actively help it stabilize steel ore production at a high level, glorifying the leading achievement of our party.

They explained and propagated the programmatic task given by the dear leader comrade in his on-the-spot guidance for the Musan mining complex and his love and consideration for its miners. They also carried out various forms of propaganda and agitation work to stimulate the workers into increasing steel ore production.

The committee helped the mobile art agitation units of plants and enterprises in each district to actively carry out art agitations on the spot and broadly conduct visual aid propaganda, thus greatly contributing to agitation for production.

The committee strengthened the socialist competition for the complex to stabilize production at a high level and to hasten the construction to enlarge its capacity. The committee brought about a new turning point in management of facilities by effectively displaying the No. 26 Lathe's loyal movement to create model machines. It also planned and carried out work for each district to give material and technical support to this complex.

Besides this, the GFTUK Central Committee organized work to help accelerate the massive repair of the No. 2 furnace in the Kimchaek steel complex.

The committee brought plants and enterprises working on this repair work together for a socialist competition, so that they could finish the work in a short time by increasing efficiency two to three times as much as scheduled in many processes including cooler assembly.

Such a support from functionaries of the GFTUK Central Committee greatly encouraged the working class of the Musan mining complex and Kimchaek steel complex to effect upsurges in production.

After receiving a report on the practical help by GFTUK Central Committee for the Musan mining complex and Kimchaek steel complex, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave the committee his great trust and a thank-you message from the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee.

A meeting to deliver the WPK Central Committee's thank-you message was held in the Central Workers Hall on 2 January.

Comrade Kim Chung-lin, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Won Tong-ku, chairman of the GFTUK Central Committee; and other functionaries concerned participated in the meeting with functionaries of the GFTUK Central Committee.

Comrade Kim Chung-lin delivered the WPK Central Committee's thank-you message.

Next, debates were held by Ho Yun, vice chairman of the GFTUK Central Committee; Yim Kum-tong, director of a department of the committee; Yi Myong-ho, vice director of a department of the committee; Pak In-chun, section chief of a department of the committee.

The debaters talked about greeting the meaningful new year in a great national pride and happiness with the dear leader Comrade as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. They also talked about the honor of receiving a thank-you message from the party's Central Committee.

The debaters talked about their will to thoroughly prepare themselves as chuche-type communist revolutionaries, to enhance the function and role of the GFTUK, and to create a remarkable turning point in the union work upholding the great leader's programmatic task presented in his new year address.

They emphasized that they should strengthen charity work and actively bring about socialist competitions among various sectors of the people's economy to repay the party's trust and expectation with faithfulness by vigorously encouraging and driving the working class and the GFTUK members to advance in this hopeful new year.

A letter of oath to the WPK Central Committee was adopted at the meeting.

Coal Miners Respond to Kim Il-song's Speech

SK0901041892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—Coal miners across the country are reporting signal results in production from the beginning of the new year in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Entering the new year, the Sunchon District coal mining complex has created ten odd new coal-cutting faces, boosting the average daily output 20 percent above that in the like period last year.

The Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the complex resolved to fulfil the yearly plan set 30 percent higher than last year by the 10th of October and challenged the workers, technicians and office employees of industrial establishments throughout the country to a socialist emulation.

The Kaechon District coal mining complex has increased the rate of mining 3 percent by introducing new coal-cutting methods, thus topping the average daily output in the previous month 40 percent.

The Yongdong Coal Mine under the Kujang District coal mining complex has introduced modern and efficient equipment into the pits to double and treble the tunneling speed. They have created several reserve cutting faces to open up a prospect of massive cutting and massive carriage.

Signal successes have been reported from the Yanggang provincial general coal mine, the Chonchon General Coal mining Enterprise and other coal mines.

Achievements in Railway Transport Noted

SK1001042692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Railway workers are increasing transport in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song who said transport is, so to speak, production and construction.

The leading officials of railway transport went to the locomotive corps and major railway stations, acquainted themselves with their conditions and solved knotty problems to effect innovations in transport.

Some 53,000 more tons of freight were transported in the first five days of this year than in the corresponding period at the end of last year, taking the Ministry of Railways as a whole. In this period the General Bureau of Western Railways carried 28,000 more tons of freight and the General Bureau of Northern Railways 12,000 more tons.

The Kaechon General Bureau of Railways increased the number of the locomotives and wagons in operation and cut the loading and unloading time to transport 10,000 more tons of freight than the plan.

Meanwhile, the work for further modernizing material and technologipal foundation of railways is progressing fast.

'Brilliant Achievements' Made Under Kim Chong-il

SK1001021892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Korea has made brilliant achievements in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, thoroughly personifying the popular work style of the great leader President Kim Il-song, solves all the problems arising in the revolution and construction, always finding himself among people and helping them to fully display their creative wisdom and talents.

He has given on-the-spot guidance to all parts of the country from the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex and the Musan mining complex in the northern tip to the plain area of Chongsan-ri on the west coast, Muksong-ri of Kaepung County along the Demarcation Line, the Komdok mining complex, the West Sea barrage and a small lighthouse islet in the East Sea.

For the development and prosperity of the country and for the happiness of the people he has traversed thousands of, tens of thousands of miles of road of on-the-spot guidance—rough roads of construction sites, compounds of iron and steel works, cutting sites of coal and ore mines, muddy roads of tidelands and dewy ridges between cooperative fields.

He visited more than 1,500 major industrial establishments and co-op farms, which are part of numerous units associated with his on-the-spot guidance.

In recent years alone, he directly guided the work of several units in Pyongyang, Chagang Province and Yanggang Province. [sentence as received]

During guidance tour, he sits knee to knee with broad segments of popular masses including workers, cooperative farmers and working intellectuals to acquaint himself with the specific conditions, settles knotty problems and shows them benevolent love and care which would be handed down through generations. He entrusted the workers of Yongsong and Nagwon with the tasks to manufacture a 10,000-ton press and a 6,000 cubic metres oxygen separator and indicated the concrete ways of producing them. At the construction sites of the West Sea barrage, he consulted with soldiers of the People's Army about ways of quickly finishing the projects, leading them to push ahead with the projects with matchless courage.

As a result, the workers of Yongsong and Nagwon manufactured the 10,000-ton press and 6,000-cubic metres oxygen separator in a short span of time with their own efforts and techniques, their own equipment and materials, while the People's Army soldiers erected the world famous West Sea barrage across an eight-kilometre rough sea in a matter of five years.

Grand monumental edifices including beautiful streets of Pyongyang and industrial establishments furnished with up-to-date equipment have been built under the energetic guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He visited construction sites to unfold a new history of construction and went to industrial establishments to kindle a torchlight of comprehensive automation.

When he made a tour of a cooperative farm, he saw to it that resident Kim Il-song's far-reaching plan for building an ideal rural community of communism could successfully be put into practice.

He called at Chongsan-ri 20 years ago and matured the plan for building it into the "first communist rural village," walking along ridges between paddy fields at dawn.

He visited a farm on the northern Kaema plateau called "Roof of Korea" and personally counted the number of potato plants and potatoes in an expanse of potato field and found a way of improving the living standard of the farmers in the highlands.

On his way on-the-spot guidance, he saw some pupils crossing stepping-stones to go to school and took a measure for building a large concrete bridge for them. And when he was informed that a few students of a lumbermen's village at the foot of a Nangnim mountain range walked scores of miles every day to go to school, he sent a commuter bus for them, and he saw to it that a branch school for three school children was built on a small lighthouse islet in the West Sea.

All industrial establishments, rural communities, fishing villages, hospitals, schools and kindergartens in Korea are associated with the meticulous guidance and benevolent loving care of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Daily on Pride in Advancing Toward Socialism

SK0601104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 6 Jan 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Pride of Korean People in Advancing Toward Socialism"—KCNA headline]

(Text) Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Sunday comes out with a by-lined article dealing with the pride of the Korean people in advancing toward socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"The successes achieved by our people under the leadership of our party are most valuable and proud in that they have done in the extremely difficult and complicated circumstances and in very sharp confrontation with the enemies, and they are a clear demonstration of the advantage and vitality of our socialism centred on the popular masses embodying the chuche idea."

The article says:

The pride of the Korean people who have paved the road of socialism under the banner of the chuche idea finds expression, first of all, in that they have built a true socialism centred on the popular masses.

It is the main characteristics of our socialism that it is a socialism centred on the masses of the people where they are the master of the society and everything of the society serves them.

The Korean people have keenly experienced that our society which has lifted the dignity and value of man to the highest level is a true ideal society mankind had longed for so much. And they feel proud of our socialism in which everyone enjoys an equal, worthwhile life.

It is also a pride of the Korean people that they have built the best socialism on their own responsibility and with their own efforts in conformity with the reality of the country.

Ours is a peculiar socialism of our style which our people have built by themselves in keeping with their aspiration and demand and the reality of our country, without following any ready-made formula and experience and without depending on others.

The Korean people have built socialism and consolidated and developed it on the principle of self-reliance with the chuche idea as the guideline, along the road they chose.

They have also made efforts to develop and complete socialism in their own way under the leadership of the party on the basis of the chuche idea. They are dynamically carrying on the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, initiated by our party as the tasks of the continued revolution and managing socialism on the basis of the chuche-based leading method and economic management system which were established by the great leader and have been developed by our party.

The Korean people are leading socialism to completion, solving in their own way the practical and theoretical problems which have cropped up after the establishment of the socialist system. Herein lies another great pride of our people.

They also feel a great pride in that they have built an invincible socialism based on the most powerful unity, guided by the chuche idea. Our socialism sees its bright prospect in the singlehearted unity of the whole party and the entire people behind the leader in the same ideology, the chuche idea, and our people feel a great pride and happiness in living and making a revolution in such a society.

It is thanks to the great leader and the wise leadership of our party that our people could have built the most superior, peculiar socialism of our style in the world under the banner of the chuche idea.

Daily Extols 'Victory' of Socialist Cause

SK0701104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 7 Jan 92

["Socialist Cause, Cause of Independence Will Certainly Triumph"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address gave a profound analysis of the essence of the events in the international arena and the law of historical development at the present time and reclarified the certainty of the victory of the socialist cause, the cause of independence and the inevitability of the downfall of capitalism, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying in his New Year address:

"Despite the imperialists and reactionaries' attempts to hold back the progress of history, it continues to march forward towards independence."

The article reads in part:

In order to ensure the victory of the socialist cause of the people, the cause of independence, it is important to properly grasp the process of changes of the present international situation and the trend of history. Only then can one continue to devotedly struggle for the victory of the socialist cause, the cause of independence, with a correct viewpoint and stand towards it.

Unexpected, complicated developments are now taking place one after another in different regions of the world owing to the crafty and shameless manoeuvres of the imperialists to realise their wild ambition for world supremacy.

Looking at the fact that socialism has collapsed in some countries, some people talk loudly about the "triumph" of capitalism over socialism and about the "decline of socialism" in a bid to create the impression that the trend of history has changed. This only exposes their ignorance of the law of historical development and their sophistry faked out to maintain the old order.

Some developments in the international arena at the present time can be generally said to be a vortex which took place temporarily in the course in which mankind is advancing towards a new independent world.

Socialism can be built successfully only by abiding by the socialist principles. It is inevitable to incur the collapse of socialism if one fails to abide correctly by the socialist principles, ignoring this truth in socialist construction, and people will suffer untold misfortunes and hardships if the restoration of capitalism is allowed.

Only socialism makes the popular masses the masters of state and society, responsible for their own destinies and provides a truly independent and creative life.

Although the imperialists are now crowing over the "crisis of socialism", it is imperialism that is suffering from a fatal disease and floundering in a hopeless crisis.

As the great leader President Kim Il-song taught, we must see the change of the current situation not pessimistically but optimistically and advance more vigorously along the road of independence with firm confidence in socialism.

The unity of the world's people should be strengthened for the victory of the socialist cause, the cause of independence.

The strategic goal the imperialists are now seeking is to destroy socialism completely, to revive the colonialist system and to bring about world domination by imperialism.

To strengthen the unity of the world's people is a decisive guarantee for smashing such strategy of imperialism with credit, defending the socialist cause, the cause of independence and achieving its victory. The world's people must unite under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence and actively struggle to baffle the imperialist policy of colonialism and build a free, peaceful new world.

Mankind will destroy the imperialists' moves against socialism, independence and progress and invariably advance along the road of socialism, the road of independence.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 10 Jan

SK1001054392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Papers here today report about meetings being held at industrial establishments across the country to carry through the tasks laid down by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address and about innovations being effected by working people in production and construction in various domains of the national economy.

Appearing in the press is a statement issued to the press by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, in support of the policy of national reunification advanced by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

According to the press, mass media of different countries reported about the New Year address of President Kim Il-song, and the part of the address dealing with the national reunification was distributed as an official document of the United Nations Security Council.

Conveyed in NODONG SINMUN are world public voices highly praising President Kim Il-song as the great leader of the people.

Foreign publications gave wide publicity to a report about the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, says the press.

Reported in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Lebanon.

An article of MINJU CHOSON says that during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, defended and implemented the revolutionary ideas and lines of Comrade Kim Il-song to the letter.

Figuring large in NODONG SINMUN is an article titled "Great Chuche Idea is Immortal Revolutionary Banner Indicating the Road Ahead of the Age of Independence".

The chairman of the communist forum of Denmark and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador met the DPRK ambassadors to Denmark and Peru, according to the daily.

In connection with the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year, NODONG SINMUN runs its commentator's article stressing that it is a signal victory of the peace policy of the Workers' Party and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and MINJU CHOSON a signed commentary describing it as a victory of the peace line over the war line.

Bush, waxing eloquent about the U.S. "Commitments to Security" in South Korea, prattled that he would keep the U.S. troops in South Korea. In this connection, MINJU CHOSON runs a commentary denouncing his rigmarole.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN denounces the South Korean authorities for passing a prison term upon Kim Chong-sik, chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop).

An article of the daily urges that the United States must sign a peace agreement with the DPRK, take a measure to withdraw its troops from South Korea at an early date and stop interfering in the reunification question of Korea.

It runs an article exposing that to establish domination over the world is a strategic goal of the U.S.-led imperialists.

Conveyed in the daily are foreign public voices demanding that Korea be reunified according to the proposal of confederacy.

According to the press, mass media of different countries reported about the draft "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" agreed upon by the North and the South of Korea and about the statement of a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry as regards the nuclear inspection issue.

It is reported in the press that leaders of Third World countries called for uniting and advancing independently, Yasir 'Arafat referred to the settlement of the Mideast peace problem, Vietnam denounced Israel's deportation of Palestinians and Cuba arrested counterrevolutionary terrorists.

South Korea

No Tae-u Holds 10 Jan News Conference

Makes Speech

SK1001033992 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0030 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Speech by ROK President No Tae-u during New Year news conference at Chongwadae—live]

[Text] I hope that the New Year will be one to give all of you joy and a worthwhile life.

For the past four years, I worked, together with you, with one heart and one will to achieve democracy, prosperity, and reunification on this land.

By implementing the 29 June declaration step by step, we opened the era of democracy, which is full of freedom and autonomy. The northern policy, which had been advanced even before the beginning of the reforms in the world, opened a new horizon for reunification of the Korean peninsula and expanded the Korean people's stage of activities onto the entire world.

The last year, 1991, was the most worthwhile year in history for our people, who aspire for peace and reunification, since the nation was divided. Three months after the North and the South simultaneously entered the United Nations, they agreed to put an end to the era of confrontation and severance and to open a new era of peace and coprosperity.

Thanks to the response of the North, great progress has been made in our efforts to independently realize the Korean peninsula's denuclearization.

Today the reunification is drawing near as a reality for us, not remaining merely a desire. However, along with such worthwhile achievements, there were not a few regrettable developments.

For the past four years, our economy maintained an average of more than 9 percent of annual growth. However, our economy was not able to emerge from the transitional difficulties that were inevitable in the course of our country's democratization, internationalization, and opening.

The year 1992 will be the year of a great turning point at home and abroad. The revolutionary changes in the world, from the collapse of communism to the Soviet Union's dissolution, will continue this year, too. The waves of such reforms, which even changed the world map, are also making a new situation inevitable in Northeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula.

All countries and regions in the world, where the cold war order collapsed, are carrying out heated competition among each other for prosperity. Europe has been integrated this year as a single market with a population of 340 million. It will greatly change the economic map of the world. In addition, a North American free trade alliance is being realized in the American Continent, our greatest export market.

The development of Japan with ultramodern technology and enormous capital has been further accelerated, and developing countries in our neighborhood are also growing rapidly. Thus, the entire world is dashing toward the 21st Century. This year we must vigorously advance toward glory in the nation's history by overcoming such cataclysmic moves in the world.

This year we must recover our economy's vitality without fail, thus providing an occasion for a new upsurge. We must also use the elections to be held this year as a decisive occasion for making our mature. By leading the changes on the Korean peninsula, which faces the era of thawing, along the correct direction, we must firmly place them on the track toward the reunification.

With such awareness, I would like to speak about the basic direction along which I will lead the national administration. I appeal to all of you for active participation.

First of all, I am going to concentrate all efforts on stabilizing prices and improving the international payments situation, with the first priority on recovering economic vitality.

This year is the first year of the seventh five-year economic plan for economic and social developments during which our economy will turn into one of an advanced nation on a full scale. In the year 1996, when this plan will be completed, our nation will become a rich advanced country with a per capita GNP of approximately $11,000.

However, the challenges facing our economy in its eminent entry into the ranks of advanced nations are not negligible.

Last year we attained 8.6 percent real growth. However, we still have a number of structural problems. Due to wage increases exceeding productivity, to consumption exceeding the growth rate and to growth which depends on domestic demand, the pressure on inflation expanded and imports rapidly increased.

In addition, due to the shortage of manpower and of indirect social capital facilities, productive activities had to be restricted.

These factors weakened the competitive power of our industry and brought about drastic trade deficits. The government estimated this year's economic growth rate more or less to be 7 percent and will consolidate economic potential amid the stabilized foundation.

For this, the government will direct strength to wage stabilization and to expanding the supply of industrial manpower. In this year's economy, the issue of wages is a key factor giving direct influence to the recovery of the industrial competitive power and to consumption and price stabilization.

Wages should be maintained within the scope of increase in productivity. The government will repress excessively heated construction activities and will lower the income rate of service fields. The government will induce more manpower into manufacturing fields.

The government will increase the number of students in various schools with priority to technical schools and will provide an industrial technical education system so that enterprises can foster manpower required for themselves.

To reduce the deficit in international payments, we should decrease consumption. For the last four years, the national income increased by two times and the living standard was enhanced. As a result, consumption also increased to a certain degree. This is inevitable.

However, the trend of our consumption exceeded the normal standard and became excessively luxurious, thus leading to the phenomenon of rapid import increase.

While we were not aware, the consumption of fuel last year increased by nearly 30 percent and the amount of crude oil imports exceeded $10 billion. Unless we exercise self-restraint and carry out conservation, we cannot improve the trade payments even if we increase exports because imports will increase.

Now all of the people should recover the fine customs of conservation and austerity. The government will continue to implement the policy of strengthening the competitive power of the manufacturing field.

Our enterprises should make efforts to increase productivity and to improve the quality of goods. Without the will to not manufacture any commodity unless we have the confidence that it is the best, our commodities cannot find their position to compete with others in today's world markets.

With such awareness, the government will give priority to technological development, export and to small-medium enterprises.

The government will invest this year 4 trillion and 200 billion won in expanding the indirect social capital facilities.

This year the government will begin the Seoul-Pusan high-speed electric railroad which is designed to cope with transportation demands in the next century and a new international airport on Yongjong Island.

Our economy is faced with the era of full-scale opening. In the new year, domestic capital markets opened. If the Uruguay Round negotiations, which are in the final stage, are settled, our markets will be open to the world.

We do not need to fear the opening but should strengthen our industry's constitution. Thus, we should assume this as an occasion for a higher upsurge.

This year the government will massively invest a total of 2.7 trillion won on modernizing the agricultural and fishing industries.

What is most important, however, is for the working people, farmers and fishermen, and all the people to jointly adapt to the changing environment. The government will take the lead in making every effort possible toward this end.

This year is a year of important choices that will determine the future of the country. We now face an important task to elect the representatives of the people who are to guide our country to prosperity and reunification in the van and to lay the foundations for a new government.

Under no circumstances should the elections be allowed to bring the economy to a chaotic state, to divide the people, and undermine social discipline. They should be a source of energy for promoting national development based on national consensus.

Representatives of the people cannot be elected properly through corrupt elections in which money is spent and dark propaganda, violence, and irresponsible agitation are rampant.

The government will guarantee a free atmosphere for the elections, but it will strictly and resolutely punish those responsible for all kinds of illegal and unlawful acts according to law, regardless of whether they are of the ruling or opposition parties and irrespective of their ranks.

However, it is impossible to realize fair elections without the people participating in the effort. Achieving advanced status in the elections depends on the people's choice.

Now I am going to talk about the political timetable that you the people are anxious to know about.

The congress of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] for electing the next-term presidential candidate, which interests all of you greatly, will be held after the general elections for national assemblymen. The presidential candidate will be elected through competition according to democratic procedures, as prescribed in the party regulations. The general elections for the 14th-term national assemblymen will be conducted with Kim Yong-sam, DLP executive chairman, in the center and in firm unity and cooperation with the two co-chairmen. I plan to conduct the general elections for national assemblymen after March.

I understand that some in the political circles still speculate that we might try to revise the constitution to suit a parliamentary form of government or presidential-parliamentary system [iwonjipchongje]. Such speculation only inflates public mistrust of political circles.

I again clearly state before you, the people, that I will never push for the revision of the constitution during my tenure.

I hope you would stop an unproductive discussion over this issue.

In addition to the general elections and presidential election, two rounds of elections for the heads of local autonomous governments are scheduled to be held this year. Many people are concerned about the prospect of holding four sets of elections during this year.

Voices are already raised to express concern that much manpower has already been mobilized for the election and the growing political funds and other factors will greatly burden our economy which is already in trouble.

They are worried about the possibility of such things greatly rocking the foundation of social stability that all the people have built with difficulty, sharing the sufferings with each other.

The price our economy was made to pay in the process of opening a democratic era in the wake of the new Republic was indeed great.

If our economy is made to pay still a greater price, it will lead to the collapse of its foundations and the collapse of the economy will erode the ground on which democracy stands.

In connection with this issue, I have met many figures and specialists from all walks of life up to the present. They are of an unanimous opinion in that considering our present economic situation, we can not expect the economic and social stabilization if we conduct four different elections in one year. Thus they urged me to make my decision. After agonizing thought, I have come to the conclusion that it would be better to postpone the election of the heads of the local autonomous bodies scheduled for this year.

I will see to it that the 14th National Assembly makes a decision on when to hold this election.

I wish to ask you people, for your best wishes on my true intentions for the bright future of the nation. I made this decision with the same mind as I had when I made the 29 June declaration.

I will widely open the earnest era of coexistence and coprosperity by putting into practice the contents of the agreement signed by the South and the North. First, I will see to it that all steps, including international inspection, are taken without fail to make the Korean peninsula devoid of nuclear weapons. I will make efforts so that the armistice system is changed into a peace system.

Since the 7 July declaration, the trade volume between the South and the North amounted to a total of $2.4 million. The 1991 trade volume increased more than seven times as much as that of 1991. The clearance settlement system between the South and the North was provided.

The trade volume will greatly increase when the joint free markets are set up together with a designation of the ports for direct trade. We will actively push ahead with establishing joint venture plants, with joint investments in the specific areas in which the North and the South agreed, such as the Demilitarized Zone and the Chinese-Soviet [as heard] border area, so that the South and the North can advance to the international market together.

I will actively push ahead with the exchanges of group visits to hometowns, to begin with, even for the family reunions for the elderly. I will also solve the task that the separated family members meet at a certain place.

We are studying the ways to greatly increase the South-North cooperation fund to give vitality to the South-North economic exchanges and to assist the investment for the North. At the same time, we will further strengthen the relations with the friendly nations including the United States and Japan, so that we can come to a grand end of the northern policy which we have pursued so far.

While firmly cementing the foundation of the social stabilization, I will continue to make efforts in improving the problems, including public peace and order, housing, environment, and education, directly related to the people's living standard. Above all, the stabilization for the people's living standard should be established.

As a result of waging war against crime and disorder in conformity with the 3 November 1991 declaration, the crimes declined and the round-up ratio increased. On the basis of reinforced police manpower and equipment and confidence acquired in the process of conducting war against crime, we will do our best in eradicating crime this year. We will severely put down all kinds of illegal or law-evading acts which radical and violent forces commit by taking advantage of the election atmosphere.

With regard to the construction of 2 million units of houses, a total of 2.14 million units of houses were sold by 1991. Thus we overfulfilled the goal one year ahead of the original target. Because too many houses were built in such a short time, there were adverse effects. However, the soaring housing prices dropped. As a result, it gave hope to the people who do not own their houses. It was indeed rewarding that more than 10 million people could have new homes through such a housing project.

During the Seventh Five-Year Plan which starts this year, the government will build and provide 500,000 units of houses every year. For the low income bracket in the urban areas and workers who have difficulty in owning houses, the government will build 200,000 units of inexpensive rental houses and small-sized houses for sale. Also, it will induce private sectors to build many small-sized housing units. Measures will be taken well in advance on a government level so that land speculation cannot occur again.

Last year we introduced local autonomy in the education field, thus providing a momentous turning point in the democratization and autonomy of our education. To foster creative people who are in conformity with the era of internationalization and information of the 21st Century, the government will continue to promote work to achieve reform in the education system and to modernize educational facilities.

To improve the quality of water supply facilities throughout the country, the government will increase investment in sewage and waste water disposal facilities. Also, to improve the air, the supply of liquefied natural gas will be expanded throughout all large cities of the country.

Finally I would like to ask fellow countrymen to display the consciousness of progressive citizens this year, which is the most important and critical year in determining the country's and the nation's future.

The most valuable asset which we gained during the past four years in carrying out democracy is the enhanced consciousness of belonging to a community. We overcame the transitional period of opening a democratic era and restored public order. This was possible in response to the people's concern about the future of the country.

Last year labor-management disputes were less numerous compared with the period before the 29 June Declaration. This was because our workers exercised self-restraint and displayed magnificent consciousness as citizens. The movement to work more, which is being voluntarily carried out, and the movement to improve productivity in plants and work sites throughout the whole country, results from the self-awareness of the people that our country cannot be ruined at this point.

With the mature civic spirit as a basis, the new-order, new-life movement is exercising great influence in driving out excessive consumption, decadent trends, and disorder. I hope that this movement will spread extensively to become a people's movement this year which will provide a better tomorrow.

As long as the citizen's consciousness that we are masters of our country, that we take care of our community, and that we choose our future is alive, we can promise a bright future.

Fellow countrymen, as a president who is faced with a heavy responsibility in state affairs during the most important period that determines the future of the country and the nation, I will do my best in completing the grave duties of this era. By doing so, I plan to magnificently finish the rest of my term in office which is only about one more year.

Today, I revealed the basic direction of the future political schedule. I hope that political circles will take the responsibility and initiative so that there will be no upsets in this political schedule. I will entrust politics to the political circles and concentrate on activating our economy and paving a consolidated basis to achieve reunification by transcending politics.

I will clearly resolve all problems. For the endless future of the country and fellow countrymen, I will not be negligent in sowing new seeds. I will sacrifice my life in this work so that I will be a president who is not by any means ashamed before the nation and history. By doing so, we will try to enhance this year as a year in which the people can achieve great results and achieve national progress.

We are now standing at a turning point which determines the shape of the country and the nation of the 21st century. We must all open a bright future together with resolute determination and correct choosing.

Answers Reporters' Questions

SK1001100492 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0057 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Questions by ROK news reporters at President No Tae-u's New Year news conference on 10 Jan at Chongwadae—live]

[Text] [Reporter Yi Sang-chol from CHOSON ILBO] The nation's great concern is whether Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], can become the DLP presidential candidate for the next presidential election. In this connection I will ask three questions. First, are you considering naming him or have you named him as the presidential candidate of the party for the next presidential election? Second, what requirements do you have in mind for the DLP presidential candidate? Third, would you tell us in detail about what you are considering in selecting the presidential candidate and in what way the candidate will be named? Will you name the candidate in advance or will he be selected through a completely free competition?

[No Tae-u] As I indicated in my speech, I urged the party to outstandingly participate in the upcoming general elections, without running counter to the people's expectations for the elections, by firmly uniting in one mind around Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and in cooperation with the other two party chairmen. Now, the presidential candidate selection process should follow the basic principle of the party presidential candidate being named through democratic procedures as prescribed by the party constitution and through competition. Now that democratization has been achieved in all fields since the 29 June declaration, I think that doing it this way is precisely the basic goal that our party should seek. What I hope is that the selection of the presidential candidate will not damage our party's present structure and interparty order and that it will be done in a reasonable and democratic way.

Now, who is qualified for presidential candidacy? My idea is that first, he must be a democratic person who has ability and experience in the administration of state affairs.

Second, I would like the person to be a man who is capable of succeeding the true ideals of the merger of the three parties—as you know, our party was a merger of three parties.

Third, the person must be a man with clear faith in democracy and must be a man who has the will and ability to develop further the northern policy that I have been conducting.

As to the method of selecting the presidential candidate, I know people have talked about various ways, such as competition, a recommendation in advance, and the like. As I said earlier, since the birth of the Sixth Republic following the 29 June declaration, democratization and automony have been vigorously achieved, not only in the political arena, but also in many other fields. As you know, chairmen of labor unions are elected through free competition. Heads of agricultural cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives, and livestock cooperatives, as well, are elected through free competition. They are not exceptions. Even heads of various economic organizations are elected through competition, unlike in the past. Even class leaders at primary schools are elected among students. Thus, we are now in the era of democratization. Therefore, free competition has become the universal value in realizing democracy today. For our party as the great ruling party to nominate someone as candidate in advance is an insult to our party. Such a thing is inconceivable.

As I said earlier, I would like to make clear before you that our party's presidential candidate will be selected through free competition according to the general will of our party members and in accordance with the party constitution. This is our party's basic principle.

[Reporter Kang Sin-chol from KYONGHYANG SINMUN] The group in our society which has disappointed our people most and which has become a burden on our people who are living honestly is precisely our group of political figures. No one denies this. In the DLP nomination of parliamentary candidates for the upcoming general elections for the 14th National Assembly, do you have any plan to pick new faces in an effort to develop our backward political culture and to recover the people's lost confidence in our political figures? If so, please detail it. You said that the general elections will be conducted after March. Tell us the definite date of the general elections. What is the criteria for the party nomination of candidates? Who will exercise the right to nominate candidates?

[No] I understand you are most interested in the criteria for party nomination of candidates. Who should be nominated? The person who has the ability to develop the country and his district and to contribute to the development of the country and the district should be nominated. At the same time, he should be sincere and unblemished. The people want such a person. In addition, he should have a strong sense of morality. Besides these requirements, it should be possible for him to be elected. This is precisely the criteria that I have kept in my mind.

I said that the general elections will be conducted after March this year, but I cannot give you the exact date of the generation elections now. All I can tell you here is the principle of the political timetable. I hope the exact date of the elections will be decided after consultations among the DLP, the government, and political circles, including the opposition parties.

[Kim Yong-chol, Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation] I will ask the same questions about selecting a DLP presidential candidate that were asked earlier. Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has been the person in question in the DLP's interparty conflicts on its presidential candidate. Have you virtually selected Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam as the party's presidential candidate? This is the focus of concern among the people. Please clarify this matter. You said that the party presidential candidate will be selected through a free competition at a party convention scheduled to be held after the general elections. We think your influence will play a great role in selecting a candidate. Do you plan to name Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam as presidential candidate? Please tell us about this.

[No] Many parts of your questions repeat those asked earlier by reporter Yi Sang-chol. As I said, Executive Chairman Kim, as the center of the party in place of me, should lead the party in the general elections. I expect that his performance will be outstanding.

As I said earlier, what is the ideal of our Sixth Republic? It is democracy, which proceeded from the 29 June declaration. It is our greatest ideal to firmly plant the roots of democracy in this land and develop them. Here, I would like to ask you reporters to cooperate. Before the 29 June declaration, you—reporters and men of the press—desperately cried out for democratization even at the sacrifice of life. In this way and on the strength of this, we are today glorifying and enjoying democratization. Naming someone as presidential candidate is not the way of thinking in today's era of democratization. The way of thinking that prevailed in past authoritarianism—claiming that the people want him, that public opinions want him, and the like—is denifitely not the will and public opinion of all the people.

Therefore, naming someone as presidential candidate or nominating someone as presidential candidate at a time when democracy is being enforced substantially is an insult to our party, which is seeking democracy. I would like to stress this once again. In other words, naming someone as presidential candidate or deciding on someone as presidential candidate in advance is definitely the way of thinking during the era of authoritarianism. I would like to urge you to alter such an old conception.

Reporter Kim Yong-chol talked about Chairman Kim Yong-sam. As you reporters know well, he is a man who has struggled for democracy. Together, we merged the party in order to promote democracy, proceeding from our spirit of national salvation. Therefore, supposing that someone makes an promise about such an outstanding man, saying, I will nominate you as presidential candidate, will he feel good? Of course, not. I am sure that this will be an insult to him and his political ideal. So I sincerely want you reporters not to insult him like that. I have highly assessed his faith in demsocracy and his action and will for democracy. I meet with him regularly to consult on party affairs. In a nutshell, what you reporters claim—that this way is what the people want and the like—is precisely not only my opinion, but also Executive Chairman Kim's opinion. I again urge you not to raise this matter so that we will not damage our party and the personality of those who respect the principle of democracy. I want you to ask Executive Chairman Kim about this directly, if you will.

[TONG-A ILBO reporter Chang Pyong-su] The present election laws stipulate that both of the elections of heads of small and large self-governing regional administrative units be held during the first half of this year. However, you, Mr. President, proposed that the two elections be postponed. Did you propose the postponement of both the elections of heads of small and large regional units? When do think is an appropriate time for the two elections?

[No] We reopened the era of the regional self-government system last year for the first time in 30 years. I promised this in my 29 June declaration. I am proud of this. In the declaration, I promised that regional assemblies will be formed. I did not refer to the elections of heads of self-governing regional units. Still, I do not mean I will not hold such elections. I think this runs counter to the spirit of the declaration. I think that electing even the heads of those units complies with the basic principle of the declaration.

However, when I look back on the history of those countries that have developed the regional self-government system, it was customary to elect heads of regional administrative units after the politics of regional assemblies took full root. Of course, I think it proper to hold elections for heads of regional administrative units if we are capable of doing so. As I said during my opening remarks, economic recovery is the most urgent task of ours. We must ensure that our economy is not ruined by elections. I have endured various forms of economic chaos for the sake of democracy. We have paid enormous economic prices in this process. Any more trouble will destroy the economy. We may face a crisis in which we will no longer be able to further develop our democracy properly. We must enliven both the economy and democracy. I think it is impossible to elect heads of regional administrative units this year. Still, I do not say there will be no such elections indefinitely. I personally think that it will be good for the 14th National Assembly to discuss a plan to postpone the elections one or two years.

In Japan, our neighboring country, heads of regional administrative units were elected 56 years after regional assemblies had been first formed. Even in the United States, a model of democracy, heads of regional administrative units were elected after 116 years, more than a century, after regional assemblies had been first formed. In France, they were elected after 186 years. They were elected after 10 years in Canada. In Taiwan, they were elected four years after regional assemblies had been formed. Even some advanced, democratic countries appoint heads of regional administrative units. Italy, for example, appoints them. Sweden and Norway appoint them, too. Still, no one says they are not democracies. My principle that we should elect heads of regional administrative units has not changed.

People are greatly worried that those elections will excessively affect the economy. If four elections are held this year, no matter how tightly we may control the monetary flow, they will deal a serious blow to the economy, under circumstances in which we have a shortage of money and manpower. I have had to make such a difficult decision for the sake of stability in the people's lives and nation. I hope you will understand my sincere intention.

[HANGUK ILBO reporter Yi Chong-ku] My question is on the North-South summit talks. It has been said that as rapid progress had been made in North-South relations, unofficial contacts took place to discuss summit talks between persons in authority in the North and South and that summit talks would take place before March. What do you think of this? Also, would you tell us whether you are willing to meet Kim Chong-il if a power transfer takes place in North Korea before summit talks take place. If talks with Kim Chong-il take place, this means a virtual recognition of his succession of power. What do you think of this?

[No] When I read the newspapers these days, they know more than I do. I sometimes think that I might do what they say I am going to do. As you know, experts say holding summit talks is the most efficient way to recover trust between North and South Korea. I have called for summit talks from this perspective. However, even though it is said that summit talks will take place in March or some other time, there is no clear-cut response from North Korea. However, I expect North Korea will accept my call for summit talks in the not too distant future. The media report that they will take place in March or some other time is false. I hope you will fully understand why I cannot pinpoint a date at this time because the talks are held by two sides.

People speculate that Kim Chong-il will inherit power before the summit talks take place. Whether a power transfer will take place or not is not a matter that I can talk about at this time. However, my partner in summit talks will, of course, be the highest responsible person in North Korea.

[YONHAP reporter Yim Pyong-nok] I will ask a question on North-South relations. As North-South relations change, North Korea's position in the international community and its activities there are the focus of our attention. In particular, North Korea hopes to upgrade its contacts with the United States and to improve relations between them, and has been seen moving in that direction. How will relations between the United States and North Korea develop and what is our position on this? Also, the final destination of our northern policy is Pyongyang, and China is the only stop left on our way to Pyongyang. When do you predict we will establish diplomatic relations with China?

[No Tae-u] President Bush returned after visiting our country at the start of this year. What we must think of first is how to view North Korea. Some people say there are differences in our and the United States' view of North Korea. There can be. However, I can say President Bush and I reached a consensus of views. I extensively discussed whether North Korea has changed fundamentally since we signed the North-South agreement and adopted a joint denuclearization declaration. Our conclusion was: We cannot hastily tell that North Korea has changed fundamentally. We must carefully watch North Korea. Another conclusion was: It is certain that North Korea has started to change.

One can change internally first, and then externally, or change externally first, and then internally. By seeing how North Korea is changing at present, we agreed that it is changing externally first, and then internally.

The North-South letter of agreement and the denuclearization declaration adopted late last year are of great significance and we must pin our hopes on them. We must change North Korea, and the ROK must be the party that will change North Korea.

Our principle has been to restore confidence and cooperative relations between the persons in authority in the North and South, and, going one step further, advance these relations into relations of reunification and the United States approved of and backed this, that is to say it supported it.

Thus, there can be no such thing as improving relations between the United States and North Korea without our taking part in it. It was agreed in principle that improving relations between the United States and North Korea will be undertaken in close cooperation with us in advance.

However, what I would like to make it clear is that we do not want to obstruct improving relations between the

United States and North Korea. Rather, we mean to help them improve their relations. In a sense, this is the spirit of my 7 July declaration.

North Korea has now agreed to restore confidence with us, remove mutual threats, and establish cooperative relations with us in order to move toward the goal called peaceful reunification. This is precisely the way of establishing friendly relations with the United States.

Even though you did not mention it in your question, I would like to note that Japan, too, is promoting such relations in the same context.

Next. All right. The KBS reporter.

[Reporter Hong Song-kyu from KBS] You briefly mentioned Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa is to visit our country on 16 January. There are many pending issues between Korea and Japan caused mainly by such things as the enormous trade deficit, some sort of feud over the past history between our two countries that has not been settled completely, and issues associated with Japan's improving relations with North Korea. First, I would like you to tell us on what issues you will put particular stress in discussing them at the Korea-Japan summit talks?

Also, I would like you to share your views on such things as improving relations between China and the ROK, which you mentioned a while ago, improving relations between North Korea and Japan, cross recognition of the Korean peninsula by its neighboring countries, including how the United States will treat North Korea—can this be realized before the end of this year?

[No] Thank you for your question. It is of great significance that U.S. President Bush visited our country at the beginning of the New Year. I also find it to be greatly significant that Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa has chosen our country to make his first visit abroad since he took office. I more than welcome it.

As is known, there are many pending issues in relations between Japan and our country. At the top of the topics to be discussed is the trade imbalance. Without removing the trade imbalance, it is impossible to promote friendly relations, no matter how often we may call for it.

There are many negative factors that obstruct the settling of these pending issues. I presume that you are well aware of the fact that the trade imbalance and transfer of technology are the most important pending issues between our two countries.

So, these issues will be central to the upcoming talks. What should be done? My stand is that the two countries, the two governments should base themselves on truly looking forward, on a broader view of the matters to do something they have never done in the past.

Of course, it is impossible to solve such staggering questions at one stroke. Japan is to blame for this, but frankly speaking, we have to take our own share of the blame. Our trade structure, as well as technological structure, and other areas are not equipped with the capabilities to solve such questions immediately.

We have such difficulties that must be rectified. Nevertheless, as you are equally concerned about these, our country has posted a trade deficit approaching $9 billion with Japan. This figure $9 billion represents more than 90 percent of the total trade deficit our country has posted in trade with other countries.

We have to rectify it at all costs. By no means can I say that we have not been making any effort to mend the trade deficit since I visited Japan last May. Our two countries have been making efforts for the purpose of training our workers as technicians and conducting joint research activities by building joint research laboratories.

Also, our two countries are increasing the frequency of cooperation between Korea and Japan in the field of industry and technology. However, since these efforts have not yet produced any great visible results, we find it frustrating. We also are extremely anxious.

During the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to our country, I will propose to him that we balance the cooperative relations between our two countries without fail; that we hammer out specific ways to achieve such a balance and make them visible to the peoples of the two countries, thereby winning confidence from them; and that relations as such are truly friendly relations; and that we turn the talks into an opportunity to achieve mutually beneficial, balanced development in relations between our two countries.

You just mentioned cross recognition. As I have said a while ago, many countries, major powers, view a complete settlement of North Korea's nuclear development projects as the most pressing task to be settled before recognizing it. The second condition concerns substantial implementation of the South-North agreement.

It is on this assumption that the United States, Japan, and other countries hope to improve relations with North Korea. If and when North Korea sincerely and faithfully meets such a precondition, I can say that it will lead to ripening the atmosphere of cross recognition.

You there. You are from Christian Broadcasting System [CBS], are you not?

[Yi Chong-sik, CBS] I would like to ask another question on northern policy. The last task to be done concerning northern policy is to formally establish diplomatic relations with China.

Mr. President, when do you think our country will formally establish diplomatic relations with China? Also, there are many people who wonder why diplomatic relations with China are being delayed. I would like you tell us the reason for the delay.

[No] Some people are unhappy about the delay and, conversely, some think there is no reason for haste. At any rate, when diplomatic relations between our country and China are established, it will no doubt develop their bilateral relations even further.

At the same time, I think it will also be desirable for achieving stability, peace, and prosperity in Northeast Asia, surrounding the Korean peninsula, as a whole.

Fortunately, economic relations between our two countries are expanding superbly. Moreover, our two countries signed trade agreements toward the end of last year. It is of great importance that trade between our two countries is steadily expanding day by day.

The South-North agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization can be said to be a decisive factor in hastening the establishment of diplomatic relations with China even more rapidly. If this goes as well as we hope, the conditions for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries will ripen steadily.

I foresee the possibility of diplomatic relations in the not-too-distant future. When this happens, I believe that such things as visits can naturally be realized.

Now, who else has a question? Oh, you Mr. Kim from Seoul....

[Unidentified reporter] First, I would like to ask you one more question about the DLP's succession plan, and later I will ask a question on prices.

I heard that you had direct and indirect contacts with the three DLP co-chairmen before the meeting at Chongwadae yesterday. Did you try to coordinate opinions with them before the Chongwadae meeting?

Also, is what you have said about the DLP's presidential candidate all that had been agreed upon or did you discuss something else? Or did you make separate promises to them?

I would like you to tell us about prices. You said you will concentrate on holding down the prices. Whenever the government promises that it will hold down prices, many people distrust it and dismiss it as nothing more than habit. Some say that this year the rate of the rise in prices will be higher than last year, given the elections this year. Would you please tell us how you will hold down the prices?

[No] I have given a detailed explanation about the successor issue before. What is new in your question is whether what I have said about our meeting yesterday was an agreement or whether I have talked about something that was not agreed upon, or whether I made promises to them individually.

I have already told the people what we talked about at our meeting yesterday. The three co-chairmen are present here.

Of course, during the discussions each participants could have expressed different opinions. However, one thing that was clear was the principal spirit we wanted to defend when we were merging the three parties. We were of the same opinion: We will never be able to rescue the country unless we merge our parties.

In a word, if we do not choose this method, we cannot rescue the nation. We all agreed on this point.

I admit that there was some friction within the party that caused concern. However, based on our ideal for national salvation, we agreed to use this opportunity for a second founding of the party.

Based on this principle, I have summed up the opinions and views of each individual and readjusted what should be readjusted. I am pleased to tell you that the three chairmen of the party reached a unanimous agreement.

As for the difficult issue of prices, I expressed my will to give top priority to the economy, and to stabilizing the prices in particular, in running the national administration. I will fulfill this.

To demonstrate this will through concrete steps, the government froze the salaries of government officials above first class. In addition, I understand that the government-run enterprises have also frozen the salaries of officials in responsible posts.

I hope that large business groups, service fields, and the financial sector will be prompted by this and will take the same steps.

We should realize substantive stability in monetary management. In particular, we will take resolute steps so that the money used for election campaigns would not stimulate commodity prices.

We will make greater efforts to properly control the prices of daily necessaries. By improving the circulation structure, we will properly control the prices of agricultural, fisheries, and livestock products, as well as their supply and demand. Needless to say, the government will implement this policy forcefully.

However, I would like to point out that our economic volume has become so large that successful implementation of such policy is not possible with only the government's efforts. Thus, I appeal to the people to cooperate. Indeed, cooperation of all people is necessary. You gave excellent cooperation to the government. When the people's cooperation in diligence and frugality, repression of excessive consumption, and restraint of increasing wages in manufacturing field is realized as a nationwide consensus, we can bring the prices under control.

[KOREA HERALD reporter Pang Song-chol] I would like to ask questions about the Uruguay Round negotiations. I expect that when these negotiations are settled, the service industry, including finance and circulation, not to mention the agricultural product markets, will inevitably open. However, it appears that the foundation of our nation's industry in these sectors is weak. In addition, when our agricultural product markets are open, our nation's rural economy will be seriously affected. Will you tell us about government measures to cope with this?

[No] All of the people have an extraordinary interest in this issue. The Uruguay Round negotiations should be finally settled. As you pointed out, the competitive power of our agricultural products and service fields is weak. Thus, it is true that we will have much difficulty when these negotiations are settled. However, with the exception of these fields, most all other economic areas have been developed by relying on overseas means, and we are accumulating wealth the same way.

In view of this situation, we think that the Uruguay Round should be successful, and this success will be helpful for us. If the Uruguay Round negotiations are not settled, we will be directly exposed to the protective trade policy of advanced countries. As a result, the door of our economy, which developed by depending on overseas help, will be shut down everywhere. We will suffer enormous damages.

Therefore, we have no other choice than to use the settlement of the Uruguay Round negotiations to advance to the international stage. In other words, we have no choice but to enhance our own competitive power.

Did we not experience this in the 1970's? We did not import foreign goods then. We made every effort to develop our economy only with domestic products and by protecting them.

We believed that if foreign products come into our nation, our economy would totally collapse. However, we boldly opened our door by overcoming such difficulties. We competed with foreign countries. We proved our ability to win in the competition with these nations.

I believe that our nation developed on the principle of free trade and by winning in the competition with foreign countries. Thus, when the main force agricultural products and services is resolutely determined to overcome anticipated difficulties with government support, we will be able to take advantage of the opening and use it as a way to leap into the ranks of advanced nations.

At any rate, we should make every effort to minimize the side effects caused by such an opening. As all of you know, last July the government formulated a 10-year plan to invest funds amounting to as much as 42 trillion won in improving the structure of farms and fishing villages.

This plan is unprecedented in our nation's history. This is also a momentous plan, which has no example in foreign countries.

According to this plan, this year we will invest 2.7 trillion won in this project, a 44 percent increase over last year. This is part of the government's efforts to improve the structure of farms and fishing villages and to develop unique domestic products with international competitive power.

We are going to train 10,000 youth each year as the next generation's heirs to farms and fishing villages.

I also admit that there are a number of weak points in the financial and service areas. However, we have no choice but to improve their structures.

Of course, making such efforts will be difficult at first. However, we should push ahead with our work by cherishing a firm faith that we can overcome these difficulties. Thank you.

[Kim Yon-il, CHUNGANG ILBO] Mr. Chong Chu-yong, former chairman of Hyundai Group, said he will enter politics, and he said he gave a considerable amount of money to Chongwadae some time ago.

These are not pleasant remarks, and some people are even arguing the pros and cons about Mr. Chong Chu-yong's attitude. However, it is true that people also many doubts. Will you please explain this in detail?

Please allow me one more question about a matter which aroused the people's interest. This is related to Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the party.

A few minutes ago, you have mentioned Chairman Kim Yong-sam's moral character and his reputation for virtue. Is this an expression of your will to support him as a presidential candidate? If so, will your support change after the general elections?

[No] I do not think you have heard that I, President No Tae-u, am collecting political funds. I clearly say to the people that I have not asked any company or anyone to give me political funds. Following the practice of the old era, some companies gave me money to help the poor, not as political funds. Also, I received money from some companies. This is a fact. That money was spent as they wished.

However, I thought that if this practice continued, alliance between the political circles and the economic circles, which people hated, might emerge again. So I resolutely asked businessmen—who come to me with donations—it they had paid all their taxes, their duty to the state. I asked them to promote their companies' sound development if they have extra money. I also asked them to try to promote the workers' welfare if they still have extra money to ensure that the workers work harder. Now if they say that they still have extra money, I ask them to contribute to social welfare. I am proud that my policy is showing results in many fields. For example, when people were criticizing business conglomerates for having too much real estate, they sold it, and some of them donated it to schools or other organizations with good causes. Among our economic difficulties, we have a shortage of technological personnel. Universities have a shortage of personnel and resources in developing technology. They have no money to buy equipment. Instead of donating political funds, companies are giving a lot of money to engineering colleges or similar institutions across the country. I think this is very good. I think, therefore, this matter is being resolved the way I wanted.

You, the people, and I all admit that Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has devoted himself to democracy. Some people think I have some ill-conceived design in dealing with him. I hope you will not think in that way. We are living in a democratic era. Some of you can say Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam is the best. Other people can say otherwise.

What I would like to say at this time is: Seeing some conflicts or controversies in the DLP, people say this party will break up or be divided or that it has betrayed the people's trust.

This way of thinking is anachronistic. What is democracy? In a democracy one can say I like you or I do not like you. People can argue pro and con. They can debate heatedly. Is it not democracy for one to unreservedly accept any conclusion reached in this process? Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam has persistently pursued and adhered to this principle. I hope you understand this is what I meant when I had been talking about him.

[Unidentified HANGYORE SINMUN reporter] You said today that elections for heads of regional self-government administrative units would be postponed. The ruling and opposition parties previously agreed to hold elections for heads of regional self-government administrative units, and those elections have already been postponed on several occasions. You cited economic difficulties for such a postponement. Having democracy take full root by completely implementing the local self-government system is not only an important point of your 29 June declaration but also the people's consensus and what is stipulated in the law. I would ask you whether you mean you would violate the law when you said you would postpone those elections?

Another question is: You said that the DLP's presidential candidate will be elected in a fully competitive election, without the prior behind-the-scenes selection of Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam or without your expressing support for him. Did Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam completely agreed with this during last night's meeting?

[No] As for my decision to postpone the local autonomous organizations' elections, those elections are stipulated in the law and the law is legislated based on agreement. Therefore, I feel sorry about it. However, as president I must think about what the people want now and what they will want in the future. Frankly speaking, I have made many efforts to put democracy into practice pursuant to the spirit of the 29 June declaration. I have endured much, and have been very tolerant, and waited. I have been much criticized by the people that I am too soft. However, I have completed it, waiting and tolerant. I referred to the spirit of the 29 June declaration just now. There were some shortcomings in the declaration; however, the declaration definitely mentions the local council. Nevertheless, I have no intention of separating them or canceling them, as I have already said. I am not going to violate the law which has been enacted based on the people's agreement. I am just inquiring about the legality. If the law says that we should do it, we will do it. But I think the people now feel that it is difficult to do it. If the president's judgment is wrong and if the law says that we must do it, I will humbly comply with the law and implement it.

As to your question about Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, we had a lengthy discussion yesterday, as I have already said. Even apart from yesterday's discussion, I have been having weekly meetings with Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam. In these meetings Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and I reached consensus through dialogue that the candidate should be decided by vote while the prospective candidates compete with each other. It is Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam's principled thought that democracy is synonymous with election through competition. I can tell you this clearly now.

[Min Chung-ki, Seoul Broadcasting System] In the first part of your address this morning, you said that the DLP national convention for the election of the next presidential candidate will be held after the National Assembly general elections. Many people were curious to know if the national convention will be held before or after the National Assembly general elections. Now you say, Mr. President, that it will be held after the general elections. What is the reason for this decision, and please tell us if Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam gladly agreed to it.

[No] It is reasonable to hold it after the general elections, and this can be justified. It is true that Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam preferred to hold it before the general elections. I feel a sense of accomplishment from the meeting we had yesterday that we put the principles of democracy into practice.

There can be various reasons, but speaking briefly, I would say that the majority opinion in the party is that if the national convention were to be held before the national election, the party would suffer a setback. If the presidential candidate were decided now, it would mean that the presidential election begins now. All of 1992 would be taken up by the presidential election, coupled with the general elections and the elections of the heads of local autonomic organizations. How will this affect the social and economic conditions of our country? Truly, this is something we must worry about.

The presidential candidate is decided through the national convention. You often mention the candidate being known. But even if Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam says, I am the presidential candidate, it does not mean that the presidential candidate is known. Anyone can say, out of his personal greed, that he is the presidential candidate. The candidate is known when you the people say that such and such a person deserves to become president. This is my concept.

Neither in our country nor in any foreign countries has there been a history of choosing the presidential candidate in the national convention one year before the end of the presidential term of office. In the United States, the ruling party decides the candidate at the national convention three to four months before the presidential election. I can tell you clearly that after we took these things into consideration, we arrived at the decision democratically.

Time is running out, so I would like to have one more reporter ask me a question.

[Kim Yong-an, KUNGMIN ILBO] It is a full four years since you came to the Chongwadae, Mr. President. You have been through various events. How would you recollect these four years? You promised many things during your presidential campaign in 1987. A considerable number of them have been fulfilled or are being fulfilled. However, there are also many whose fulfillment are short of expectations. It seems that no substantial success has been made in economic justice, in eliminating regional antagonism, and in solving the problems of farming and fishing population, in particular. What is your plan to keep those promises, for which the fulfillment has been insufficient, during your remaining term of office?

[No] Thank you. I cannot think of any word to properly describe my four years in office. All I can say is that democracy is really difficult to implement. However, it is rewarding that I have implemented democracy, a very difficult task. My steadfast desire, as well as our people's ardent desire, to open the door to North-South reunification during my term of office has made steady progress, achieving the historic task of attaining the North-South agreement last year, issuing the joint declaration on the nuclear issue which was so difficult to resolve, and bringing a possibility of opening the door between the North and the South this year. This is very rewarding and raises expectations.

As you noted, there have been unsatisfactory results. I am sorry for this. You referred to the promises. I always carry with me the promises written in my pocket notebook. I review them when I am in Seoul or when I leave on a trip to the provincial areas. I have made 459 promises to the people. As of today, we have attempted to fulfill 448 of them. Of these 448 promises, 175 promises have been kept. Work is in progress for the remaining 273 promises. I regret that we have not yet done anything about 11 promises. I intend at least to begin the work on all the promises I have made during my term of office. I ask the people to see how I do. I report to the people every year on all the promises I have made. I have confirmed this with the leaders of the countries of the world through my staff. They say that I am the only president in the world who sees to it that his promises are attended to and has this confirmed by the people. This is very rewarding.

Nevertheless, there are insufficient areas. However, it is rewarding to have implemented the 29 June Democratization Declaration to the best of my ability. I have steadily pushed ahead with the nordpolitik, including the 7 July Joint Declaration, and we, with all the people, are rewarded to see the enormous results. These are the two major areas where we feel it highly rewarding to implement the promises.

As to the economic problems, the trade deficit has been growing too much, and prospects for inflation are bad although we have managed to keep it at a single digit so far. Though this has been an unavoidable price we had to pay to implement democracy, it is my duty to get the economy recovered from this situation. I am determined to carry out this task. The four years I have spent so far have been filled with rewards and with regret.

Yet all the people, including myself, agree that we are implementing democracy, that we are opening the era of peaceful reunification not as a dream but as reality, and that we can revitalize our national economy. I am grateful to all the people who have a common understanding that we can resolve the difficult economic situation. I hope that you will give me support and encouragement in the future as well. I have to conclude my answering your questions here, and I thank the people for watching this news conference on television. Thank you. [applause]

Editorial Stresses U.S. Role in N-S Talks

SK1001092992 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The North-South Agreement and ROK-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] Considering the announcements of the government authorities and domestic newspaper and radio reports, our North-South relations are giving us very progressive and hopeful impression both at the end of one year and the beginning of another.

The North and the South adopted "the North-South agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges" and agreed to adopt "the declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" at the end of the year. Accordingly, we have decided to discontinue the Team Spirit exercise and North side has decided to sign the nuclear safeguards accords.

The United States limited its contacts with North Korea to counselor level. However, the United States and North Korea have decided to upgrade their contacts to the level of vice minister, and they decided to hold a vice minister-level contact in New York within the next week. It seems that everything is going reasonably well.

If this situation proceeds, the people of the Korean peninsula, who have been faced with division, conflict, and confrontation for the past 47 years after their liberation, can expect a spring of detente and reconciliation. The North and the South have long held many contacts in Panmunjom, the symbol of division. They did not reach any agreement except for creating such phrases as "agreement not to agree" and "promise to meet again," however. We reached an agreement which surprised the world in Panmunjom at the end of last year. We can be proud of the agreement which represents the Korean people's wisdom.

U.S. President Bush, who visited our country some days ago, highly appraised our agreement. Judging from the voices coming from the United States side after his visit and our side's attitude in coping with them, we cannot but doubt if there is something not agreeable to both sides, however.

High-ranking sources in our government are quoted as saying that the U.S. Administration and U.S. Congress worry that the ROK is rushing the nuclear issue and the improvement of the North-South relations without a firm guarantee about North Korea's nuclear weapons development. It is accordingly said that our government will send high-ranking officials, above ministerial level, to the United States within this month. If the report is true, it seems that this is not insignificant.

If the government has to send high-ranking officials to explain our side's stance, why did the government not negotiate with the U.S. side in advance? In particular, the nuclear issue is not an issue related only to the ROK. The issue of Team Spirit is not an issue related only to the ROK, either.

The Defense Ministry revealed in its announcement on 7 January that the U.S. Government had agreed to our side's decision to discontinue Team Spirit. If we decided an issue concerning the United States without negotiations with them and then notified them, this is not insignificant, however.

Of course, we cannot have agreed with the North Korean side's "chuche-oriented stance" that "unjust pressure on us regarding the issue of nuclear inspection cannot be tolerated," which Kim Il-song claimed in his New Year address.

The government surmised that "North Korea clearly expressed its intention to respect the North-South agreement." Kim Il-song said, "The agreement is a great victory which has been gained in the course of all nation's struggle to implement the three principles for national reunification." however.

The tone of the North side's intention is clearly reflected in the preamble of the agreement. We should know that the North Korean authorities are too dangerous a partner for us to promote the improvement of the North-South relations without negotiations and cooperation with the United States.

Cabinet Allows U.S. Companies' Procurement Bids

SK0901040592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—U.S. companies will be allowed this month to bid on South Korean Government procurement contracts for telecommunications equipment under a regulation passed by the Cabinet Thursday.

The regulation on gradual opening of procurement to foreign companies will take effect this month following the passage by the Cabinet.

It stipulates that the government will receive applications from foreign companies that want to bid and announce which are eligible before the bidding begins.

It extends the deadline for answering a bid from 10 to 40 days and sets up a committee to deal with claims concerning bids.

The regulation requires the government to write key elements of a bidding notice, including the name of the agency, the items for procurement and the deadline for bidding, in either English, French or Spanish.

The government measure fulfills a record of understanding signed in February 1990 with the United States on government procurement of telecommunications equipment and materials.

The amount of equipment and materials the government will buy through biddings is estimated at 84 billion won (110.52 million U.S. dollars) a year. It intends to allow U.S. companies to bid on 40 billion won worth.

In addition, Korea is working to join the governmental procurement agreement of the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT), a Finance Ministry official said. It submitted an application to GATT's committee on government procurement in June and is expected to sign the agreement this year.

The GATT accord is part of the Uruguay Round talks and bars discrimination against foreigners in government procurement.

The official said joining the agreement would help Korea avoid pressure from the U.S. Government to open its procurement market in bilateral talks as the pact makes Korea a country for multilateral negotiations.

The United States, EC, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Israel and five more nations have joined the agreement, which is applied to procurement contracts worth 120 million won and over.

The procurement markets of the 12 signatories are estimated at 50.3 billion dollars in 1989 and Korea's was 570 million dollars, he said.

Korea will participate in GATT negotiations to expand opening of the procurement market.

Chong Won-sik Informs North of Planned Visit

SK1001034592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Chong Won-sik informed North Korea on Friday that he would send Vice National Unification Minister Yim Tong-won and an assistant to the truce village of Panmunjom on Jan. 14 to swap documents on jointly declaring the Korean peninsula nuclear-free.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk proposed that one delegate and one assistant attend the contact under an agreement made by both sides on the exchange of the documents between Jan. 14 and Jan. 21.

Inter-Korean Reconciliation Decisive for Region

SK1001140692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0757 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean reconciliation will play a decisive role in facilitating economic cooperation in Northeast Asia, the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) said in a report released Friday.

KIEP's report, on conditions and prospects for economic cooperation in Northeast Asia, said the recent agreement between the two Koreas would help normalize relations between South Korea and China, North Korea and Japan, and North Korea and the United States, and would make inter-Korean economic cooperation practical.

"Policies on Northeast Asian economic cooperation should be promoted based on inter-Korean economic integration," the report said, forecasting the two Koreas would become more dependent on each other through joint projects such as development of Mt. Kumgang and the Tuman River.

Economic cooperation among countries in East Asia would get on the right track around the mid-1990's prompted by inter-Korean reconciliation, improvement of relations between North Korea and Japan, and North Korea and the United States, and cooperation between Russia and the outside world, it said.

It said regional economic cooperation should not be led by the exclusive logic of a bloc economy.

Citing the location of the Korean peninsula in the center of Northeast Asia, the report said South Korea could serve as a bridge linking the industrialized countries and developing countries in the region. It also said that Korea stood in the middle of the two groups in terms of economic development and technology.

The region may see a multi-faceted economic grouping whose center (South Korea, Japan and Taiwan) is connected with areas of potential development, including North Korea, China and the former Soviet Union, the report said.

It was desirable for the regional countries to create special zones for joint economic development in the Tuman River basin and Chinese industrial districts of Dalian and Shanghai, it said.

The report also recommended that the Chinese island of Hainan and the Korean island of Cheju be developed into multinational bonded areas, and that a free trade belt be formed by linking the special economic zones in regional countries.

Hong Kong Paper on Kim Chong-il's Succession

SK0901143492 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] TA KUNG PAO, the pro-China paper in Hong Kong, reported that before his birthday on 15 April North Korean President Kim Il-song will hand over the presidency to Kim Chong-il. The paper added that Kim Chong-il will participate in the North-South summit talks, expected to be held within the first half this year, in the capacity of president.

Government To Encourage Tourist Visits to North

SK0901235992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Hoping to give new momentum to inter-Korea rapprochement and exchanges, the government plans to encourage foreign tourists in the South to visit North Korea.

The plan is made in response to a recent proposal from North Korea to allow foreign tourists from the South to make trips to the North, an informed government source said yesterday.

The government has decided to accept the North Korean proposal in the belief that it will eventually lead to the long-sought exchanges of South and North Korean tourists, the source said.

The South will inform the North of such a decision at the sixth inter-Korean premiers' talks slated in Pyongyang Feb. 19, the source said on condition of anonymity.

North Korea made the proposal at the last inter-Korea premiers' meeting held in Seoul in December, while proposing possible inter-Korea cooperation projects, he said.

The government plans to recommend that foreign tourists visit North Korea before making scheduled trips to the South upon their arrival here by providing them with full information on sightseeing sports in the North, he said.

If the program materializes, he projected that at least 100,000 foreigners or about one-tenth of foreigners coming to the South this year will travel to the North, too.

Foreign tourists are expected to be allowed to enter and leave North Korea via the village of Panmunjom, he said.

Neither foreigners nor Koreans have been permitted to cross the border for private purposes.

The government is ready to discuss detailed steps with North Korea to realize the North-proposed exchanges of foreign tourists, the source said.

Meanwhile, the Transportation Ministry reportedly set up a task force to establish concrete plans about proposed exchanges of foreign tourists in December.

The government is also considering making the state-run Korean National Tourism Corp.'s (KNTC) 18 overseas branches advertise North Korean sightseeing sports, too, the source said.

The South Korean Government is also positively studying ways for South Korean businesses to undertake anticipated North Korean projects to expand its tourist facilities, he said.

The official said that North Korea will first have to expand Sunan Airport in the suburb of Pyongyang, the main gateway to North Korea, to admit a large number of foreign tourists.

Such detailed matters as training of guides who will accompany foreign tourists to the North and designation of travel agencies authorized to handle travel to the North will be exclusively handled by the KNTC, he said.

South Korea plans to attract about 3.5 million foreign tourists this year, to earn some $3.6 billion in hard currency.

North, South University Students Exchange Letters

SK1001093392 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 9 Jan 92 p15

[By correspondent An Kwang-ok in Kwangju]

[Text] It was learned on 8 January that through Chondaehyop's committee for the reunification of the fatherland and the pan-national youth student union headquarters in Berlin, the General Student Council and some departments of Chonam National University exchanged letters with North Korean university students by facsimile.

According to Chonam National University's General Student Council, the special student committee for peace and independent reunification of the fatherland under the university's General Student Council and three departments, including the Agricultural Biology Department of the university's Agricultural College, sent a letter asking about reunification, nuclear inspection, and class atmosphere to North Korea's Student Committee early in November, 1991. On 28 December, 1991, they received answers to this letter from Kim Il-song University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Kye Ungsang University, and other universities.

The letter of Mr. Kim Myong-sok, Shipbuilding Engineering Department of Kim Chaek University of Technology, which the Chonam National University General Student Council released, says: "We do not oppose nuclear inspection. If the United States begins to withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea, we, who have no intention or ability to develop nuclear weapons, will sign the nuclear safeguards accord.

The North Korean university students' letter consists of 13 neatly typed pages and carries the senders' names: Kim Chong-ae, sophomore, Material Engineering Department of Kimchaek University of Technology; Kim Yong-man, junior, Shipbuilding Engineering Department of the university; and others.

In the meantime, the South Cholla Province office of police administration said: "We understand that these letters were exchanged by Chondaehyop. Because these letters do not carry the names of specific persons but those of organizations, we are continuing the investigation and are reviewing whether such exchanges violate the National Security Law."

North Korean Diplomats Arrested in Zimbabwe

SK0901073792 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 9 January 92 p 4

[AFP-YONHAP from Harare, Zimbabwe]

[Text] The local press reports on 8 January that two diplomats from the DPRK Embassy in Zimbabwe, Africa, were arrested on charges of contraband transactions in rhinoceros horns.

According to the local press, including THE HERALD, it was revealed that Mr. Han Dae-song, second secretary at the DPRK Embassy, bought the rhinoceros horns from local poachers in November 1991 and attempted to take them out of Zimbabwe secretly in a diplomatic pouch.

Kim Yong-sam Claims No Tae-u's Support

SK1001004192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), indicated yesterday that President No Tae-u would support him as his party's presidential candidate.

Sources at the presidential office of Chongwadae, meantime, said the party will hold a nomination convention open to all contenders after the parliamentary elections to be held in March or April. The precise election date is yet to be decided.

"I am fully satisfied with the outcome of the meeting," Kim said following a marathon session with No and two other top DLP officials.

"We have reached a complete agreement on issues including the selection of the party's presidential nominee," Kim added.

He said President No will announce his decision at a news conference today.

DLP Co-chairman Kim Chong-pil also indicated that the Chongwadae meeting has narrowed the factional differences over the thorny issue of who should be nominated as the party's presidential candidate. "We have reached a conclusion at the meeting," Kim said, but declined to elaborate on his remarks.

Meanwhile, Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, said the president, concurrently head of the government party, will make public his views on his choice of presidential nominee and other issues at his New Year's news conference scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m.

"I believe every thing will become known at the press conference," Son told reporters following the three-hour meeting. Pak Tae-chun, co-chairman of the government party, was also on hand.

No will also discuss this year's political schedule, including the timing of the parliamentary elections, Son said.

In addition to the legislative elections, the presidential election and polls to elect administrative heads of local governments are also to be held this year.

The DLP factions had been split over who should become the presidential candidate and under what method such a candidate should be chosen. They had also bickered over exactly when the standard-bearer should be selected.

The Kim Yong-sam faction had long called for No's explicit support of Kim as the next flag-bearer. At the same time, it had insisted on holding the party's national convention before the parliamentary elections.

Kim, a former opposition leader who led a merger with No's party in early 1990, believed that delaying the convention would deprive him of his chances of securing candidacy.

The 64-year-old executive chairman and his followers had threatened to bolt the party en masse if Kim fails to win the nomination before the legislative elections.

Son said the president told the party chairman to forge greater party unity for victory in the coming parliamentary elections.

"President No consulted with the three party chairmen on this year's major political schedule and on matters related to party operation," he said.

The meeting between No and the party leaders, which continued over dinner, began at about 3:40 p.m.

They discussed when and how to nominate the presidential candidate, Son said.

Other topics included the timing of the next parliamentary elections and the nomination of candidates for the legislative balloting, he said.

"The president emphasized that the party should transcend factional interests and nominate those who can get support from voters," Son said.

Chongwadae spokesman Kim Hak-chun said No will preside over a meeting of key party officials at the presidential office tomorrow.

The meeting is to endorse the decisions reached at No's meeting with the three party leaders, the spokesman said.

No Tae-u's Announced Delay in Elections Cited

DP Opposes Postponement

SK1001030092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party, reacting strongly to President No Tae-u's announced plans to postpone the local elections, said it will do its utmost to hold the balloting within this year.

At his New Year's press conference, No said he has decided to postpone the elections for mayors and provincial governors because of their possible adverse effects on the nation's economy.

This year's top priority for the government is to revive the nation's economy, No said. In order to do so, it would be difficult to hold the local elections on top of the general and presidential elections, he said.

The president said, however, he was not cancelling the election outright. No said he hoped the 14th-term National Assembly to be convened following the general elections would discuss his plans to postpone the local elections by one to two years.

Rejecting the presidential plans outright, the Democratic Party said it will convene party leaders and lawmakers Saturday morning to discuss the issue in order to carry the original plans through this year.

"There is no justification for the president to postpone the local elections citing economic difficulties because the government party has already pledged to hold various elections without spending much money," a party statement said.

The Democratic Party, however, praised No's pledge not to reform the national constitution in order to realize the parliamentary form of government. "We believe the president's decision on this matter is a fruitful result of our continued struggle," the statement said.

Opposition Calls Delay 'Regrettable'

SK1001131092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0837 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition parties denounced President No Tae-u's decision Friday to postpone local elections, but No's party and economic organizations welcomed it.

"The virtually indefinite postponement of the two elections breaks a promise to the people," Minjung Party spokesman Chong Tae-yun said.

No told a new year press conference he was postponing mayoral and provincial gubernatorial elections scheduled for this year as the economic repercussions of four elections in a single year would be too great. Presidential and general elections are also due in 1992.

It was regrettable the president had failed to show clearly that he was trying to end political instability or solve the economic crisis, Chong said.

The main opposition Democratic Party criticized No's decision and said party leaders would meet Saturday to discuss measures to hold the elections in the first half of the year as planned.

No's Democratic Liberal Party welcomed the decision as a "prompt solution to save the economy and the country."

Fruitless debate and speculation on the nomination of a presidential candidate, constitutional revision for a parliamentary cabinet system and local elections are detrimental to economic recovery, a party statement said.

The decision to adjust the election schedule was a realistic solution, it said.

Economic organizations such as the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Korea Foreign Trade Association called the postponement "appropriate action considering the difficult period of the national economy."

"The decision to leave the local election schedule to the 14th National Assembly is not suspension of democratization but a show of clear determination to seek economic and social stability," the two organizations said in a joint statement.

They said they "welcome with great expectations" No's measures for economic stability and hope the measures are geared to holding down inflation and narrowing the trade deficit.

Legality of Suspension Eyed

SK1001130892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0825 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u's suspension of elections for mayors and provincial governors on Friday can be legally carried out because the National Assembly can change the law before the elections are due, according to Son Chu-whan, the senior presidential secretary for political affairs.

"I don't find anything illegal in No's postponement of the elections because they must be held in the first half and the General Assembly is certain to convene before June," Son said.

During his new year press conference, No was asked: "Mr. President, wouldn't it be breaking the law if you postponed elections that have been agreed on by the ruling and opposition camps."

"What No aims to do is to get the law revised by the 14th-term National Assembly so he can focus more on the economy and other pressing issues during his last year in office," Son said.

When No vowed to "leave politics to the political circle," Son explained, he meant he would continue to be briefed by Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam on party affairs and would exercise his right to pick the party's candidates for the general elections.

Hyundai's Chong Forms Party Preparation Committee

SK1001060992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong formed a preparatory committee to create a political party and was elected its first chairman on Friday.

The tentatively named Unification National Party will be formally launched around Feb. 10 in a national party convention after establishing 48 district chapters. It plans to field about 80 candidates in the general elections this spring, portending changes in the political arena.

Yi Yong-Chun, a former vice labor affairs minister, and Yi In-won, a talk show moderator of the KBS [Korean Broadcasting System], were designated party secretary-general and spokesman, respectively.

A statement issued by 152 promoters maintained the nation was drifting and divisive although it was necessary to prepare for peaceful reunification before the 21st Century.

"We stand up here to carry out new politics, which is desperately called for today," it said.

The statement said the party would seek to change society, eliminate authoritarian bureaucracy, pursue fair and open politics, introduce the concept of public use of land and require real names in financial transactions.

The planned party will be controlled by a collective leadership of five to six chairmen, and Chong or former Rep. Yang Sun-chik are expected to be executive chairmen.

The 76-year-old entrepreneur-turned-politician told reporters after the meeting that he had never given money to opposition parties. Early this week, Chong said that he gave political funds to rulers of the country.

Chong said he would complete formation of party headquarters at an early date and field candidates in all constituencies in the elections if fresh people were available.

"The nomination of candidates will be carried out in a fair manner. We do it independently regardless of the nomination schedules of existing ruling and opposition parties," he said.

Among the 152 participants at the meeting were Reps. Kim Kwang-il, Chong Mong-chun and Kim Kil-kon, and former Reps. Kang Pyong-kyu, Kim Kyong-in, Kim Yong-ho, Pak Han-sang, Sin Min-son, Yi Hyon-chae, Yim In-chae, Hong Song-u and Hong Chong-uk.

And on the promoters' list were former Foreign Minister Kim Tong-cho, former Governor of the Bank of Korea Pak Song-sang, former Vice Foreign Minister Yun Hachong, Yi Kon-yong, a former president of the Korean Equestrian Association, Yi Sang-chu, president of Ulsan University, Cha Hwa-chun, a former vice assistant economic planning minister, and Pak No-kyong, a former editorial writer at the KYONGHYANG SINMUN.

There were celebrities actor, Choe Pul-am, actress Kang Pu-cha, comedian Yi Chu-il, songwriter Pak Chun-sok, literary figures Yu Ho, Chong Ul-pyong and Kim Suhyon.

Expected but not attending were Yi Myong-pak, a former chairman of Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co., Rep. Pak Chin-ku, former Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su, former Defense Minister Yun Songmin, former Rep. Yu Che-yon and So Yong-hun, a former president of Korea Broadcasting System.

* ROK To Recruit Top Soviet Scientists

WA0901030092

[Editorial Report] The 12 December Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean, page 2, reports that the South Korean Government plans to recruit from 300 to 500 leading Soviet scientists from 1992 until the year 2000 to assist in government-sponsored high technology research and development projects.

Due to a growing interest in the "commercialization" of Soviet military industries, the ROK Ministry of Science and Technology [MST] recently held a conference on ROK-Soviet science and technology cooperation and promotion in Seoul. The major emphasis of the conference was to assess the impact of current Soviet "political trends" on Soviet scientific research organizations. Subsequently, the MST proposed that leading Soviet scientists in the fields of aircraft industry, space Industry, new materials, new energy sources, and the environment be recruited every year to work on government research projects.

For 1992, the MST plans to recruit about 100 Soviet scientists, 80 of whom will participate in 48 current ROK-Soviet joint projects. The remaining 20 scientists will join South Korean research organizations and universities to conduct government-sponsored research. The joint projects include support for the transfer and commercialization of Soviet advanced technologies and the formation of an advisory group composed of senior scientists from both governments to work toward the privatization of the Soviet munitions industry. The advisory group will also work to identify areas of cooperation and "managerial support" for the commercialization of military enterprises.

The article also states that the major goals of ROK-Soviet "Joint venture companies" will be to invest in or purchase certain parts of the Soviet munitions industry. In the commercialization of Soviet defense industries, the "priority sectors" are: production of heavy equipment for developing natural resources; processing technologies for communictions equipment; factory automation equipment; developing special materials to sell on international markets; the conversion of military aircraft to civilian use; the production of satellites; the manufacture of major electronic auto parts from special materials used in military equipment; and the incorporation of military equipment used for measurement and computation in civilian communications systems.

Samsung To Form Joint Venture With Kazakhstan

SK1001141092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0850 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—The trading arm of the Samsung group announced Friday that it would form a 50-50 joint venture with Kazakhstan to set up a trading company in Alma-Ata.

The company, to be called Kazsam, will be started with a capital of 500,000 U.S. dollars and open business in March if it gets government approval.

Samsung plans to trade refrigerators, electronic appliances and daily necessities for steel and non-ferrous metals. The contract was signed Thursday in Seoul.

Kazsam will add a branch office in Kiev to its operations next month, followed by another branch in Moscow and a joint-venture fishery company in Nakhodka.

ROK, Russia To Discuss Fishing Cooperation

SK1001020692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Fisheries officials from South Korea and Russia will discuss ways to promote cooperation Friday in their first fisheries committee meeting in Seoul, a Fisheries Administration spokesman said.

The 12-member Korean side, headed by fisheries administrator Yun Ok-yong, is expected to demand that Russia allow Korean trawlers to catch Alaskan pollack in Russian waters and set Korea's quota at 300,000 tons a year, he said.

Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a fisheries pact on Sept. 16 and with dissolution of the communist empire, Russia took over the position, he said.

Among other topics to be discussed in the meeting, scheduled to last until Jan. 21, are for Korea to secure fishing grounds to catch Alaskan pollack and codfish in joint ventures with Russian partners and to repair russian vessels in Korea and set up joint-venture processing plants for marine products.

They will seek to collaborate in preserving marine resources in the North Pacific and ensuring safe fishing and technology cooperation, he said.

ROK To Lift Sanctions Against South Africa

SK0901100892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea will lift on Friday [10 Jan] the economic sanctions it has imposed on South Africa since 1978, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The lifting will allow the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and Korean firms to set up branches and establish corporations in South Africa.

Government-invested institutions will be permitted to render financial support to the country, the ministry said.

Korean aircraft will be allowed to fly to South Africa and the two countries will be able to exchange trade missions.

The ministry said that United Nations bans would remain in force on arms sales, nuclear weapons manufacturing and cooperation in their development, and exports of petroleum, however.

"The government believes removal of the sanctions will contribute to enhancing the welfare of the black community and to the regional development of South Africa. We hope the on-going constitutional negotiations to guarantee black people's suffrage will be smoothly settled," a government official said.

Feasibility of Cement Factory in China Studied

SK1001023192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea's cement industry is studying a Chinese offer to build a cement factory in China's Shandong Province with an annual capacity of 2 million tons, industry sources said on Friday.

Sangyong cement [as received], Tongyang Cement Corp. and the trading arm of the Daewoo group [as received] were surveying the feasibility of the plan, which is projected to cost 400 million U.S. dollars in tie-up with China's state-run cement maker, the sources said. Daewoo denied receiving such an offer.

The sources said China had completed all the procedures for the joint venture to go ahead.

China, despite a lack of technology, produced 200 million tons of cement in 1991. Korea imported 6 million tons from China last year, or 85 percent of its total cement imports.

Hyundai Auto Exports Halted by Labor Dispute

SK1001021192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0055 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—A red light is flashing for South Korea's exports of automobiles as shipments by its largest automaker have been halted by a drawn-out labor dispute.

Hyundai Motor Co. has not shipped any cars since December, when more than 10,000 stayed on the docks due to discord between union and management over a special bonus equivalent to 150 percent of a month's pay.

Hyundai planned to ship 35,300 cars overseas in December, but moved only 24,162 as production was troubled by the dispute.

Exports are likely to be worse this month. Hyundai, which plans to export 22,000 cars in January, made no shipments during the first 10 days of the month. Hyundai's No. 1 and No. 2 factories have halted operations completely.

An export official at the automaker said the labor dispute had kept the company from shipping more than 8,000 cars to North America and 6,000 to Europe and Asia last year.

"The company planned to send 22,000 cars in January, but there are only 5,000 available for shipment. The protest of the dealers and buyers must be strong," the official said.

Hyundai accounts for some two-thirds of Korea's car exports, industry sources said, so it would be difficult to meet this year's export target of 460,000 vehicles.

The dispute has cost Hyundai production losses of 43,433 vehicles or 283 billion won (372.3 million U.S. dollars) since September last year, Trade and Industry Ministry officials said Thursday [9 Jan].

Shipyards Build Record Tonnage of Ships in 1991

SK0901022492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0128 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean shipyards received a record 5.43 million gross tons of orders and built 4.42 million gross tons of ships last year, also a record, an official at the Korea Shipbuilders' Association said Thursday.

Orders on the books at the end of December amounted to 7.73 million tons gross tons, an increase of 15.4 percent from a year earlier.

Orders from foreign shipowners amounted to 5.31 million gross tons and 4.22 million tons were built, leading a shipbuilding boom in Korea last year, he said.

HDTV Prototype Prepared for 1993 Taejon Expo

SK1001140292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0658 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 [date as received] (YONHAP)—The government has decided to speed up work on high-definition television [HDTV] so a prototype system can be demonstrated at the Taejon Expo in 1993, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

To shorten the development period, the Trade and Industry, Communications, and Science and Technology Ministries will increase the level of their support.

Since it began in 1990, the Trade and Industry Ministry has put 12 billion won (16.05 million U.S. dollars) into the project. The Communications Ministry gave 3 billion won last year and this year the Science and Technology Ministry joins in funding Korea's HDTV development project.

The project, being carried out jointly by the government and leading electronics companies such as Samsung, Gold Star and Hyundai, is budgeted at 100 billion won, with 40 billion won to come from state coffers and 60 billion from the private sector.

The three ministries will jointly spend 15 billion won this year and 10 billion won next year.

The government will set up a joint committee for support of HDTV development with director-general-level officials from the three ministries and the Korea Academy of Industrial Technology.

* Five-Year Economic Development Plan Reviewed

922C0047 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 13 Nov 91 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Sok-ki: "Development Plan Will Not Depart From Conglomerate-Centered Growth and Will Seek To Insure Substantiality in Domestic Industries"]

[Text] The Seventh Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan announced by the Korean Government on 12 November 1991, focuses on the following two agendas: the "rosy" prospect for ushering a $10,000 per capita income and the forecast of drastic change in direction from the past unbalanced growth strategy based on the preferential treatment of a few large industrial conglomerates.

Judging from the fact that they contain the level of expectation which is inevitable in the basic nature of the economic development plan, the goals for per capita income and other projected indices are not overstated. The government acknowledges that the future five-year plan, unlike the initial plans of the 1960's, has lost much of its forcefulness. By reducing uncertainties about the future, the Korea Economic Planning Board emphasizes the aspect of an "inducement plan" for private businesses, enterprises, and households to take the initiative for future development.

By means of management reform, such as the establishment of independent, professional management systems and wider ownership of industry assets by shareholders, the next five-year plan hopes to heighten the competitiveness of domestic industries. This could be considered a significant policy change in view of our current economic condition and development.

Realistically speaking, however, attaining some goals of the plan relating to a per capita income and other projected indices appears to be overly ambitious. In view of the many unfavorable factors surrounding the present Korean economy, such as a national trade deficit of 10 billion, a double digit inflation rate, sluggish exports due to technological and pricing limitations, and the lack of motivation on the part of workers as well as business owners, it is doubtful whether the next five-year plan will attain such optimistically projected indices without difficulties.

The vision of achieving a per capita income of $10,000 by 1996, becoming the only country to join the ranks of the developed nations out of the underdeveloped ones within the century, is more of a goal promoted by the government to stimulate the nation's economy.

In light of the recent slump in the Korean economy, it is doubtful if Korea will achieve a 7.5 percent annual economic growth from next year.

The government's desire to bring down the domestic consumer price to below the level (5 percent) by 1996 to ensure our competitiveness seems too unrealistic, especially taking into consideration the economic uncertainities of next year when the country is coming up with four major elections.

The government predicts the future export growth rate to be 12-14 percent a year and expects to reach a goal of $130-140 billion by 1996, approximately doubling this year's goal of $71 billion. Furthermore, it expects a trade surplus of $5-7 billion by 1996.

Even if the above figures are standard indices which take account of price increases and foreign exchange rate changes, doubling both the export and per capita income values within five years is very ambitious.

To achieve the goal of transforming the nation into an "advanced country" is undoubtedly every Korean's dream. It is true, however, reaching such a high goal is difficult without extraordinary determination and efforts, and shared hardship on each person's part.

Through this plan, the government suggest a major shift of direction in economic development, strategy and "management reform" to attain the basic goals.

From the initial stage of our nation's industrial development, preferential allocations of economic resources and assistance were given to a few large industrial conglomerates by the government, promoting unbalanced economic growth in the nation.

It cannot be denied that this unbalanced economic growth, which bought the name "Republic of Industrial Conglomerates" to South Korea, has brought rapid economic growth for the country under an authoritarian regime.

In spite of the fact that South Korea has grown to become one of the 10 largest trading nations in the world, the country's industrial giants have nothing to show for as their unique products at the international level. Instead, they have busied themselves in diversifying their products through the years. It is the Government's view that the centrally controlled management policy of these industrial conglomerates clearly brought negative impact upon industrial growth in South Korea, not to mention other series of negative roles including tax evasion for inheritance of wealth and real estate speculation.

Moreover, these large industrial conglomerates, the same culprits in frenzied real estate speculation that shook the stability of the nation, started a commercial building construction boom when faced with the Government's "sharp attack" to control speculation invesment by imposing heavy taxation on the capital gains involving real estate transactions.

The government's attempt to ignite new growth in special industries, by credit-system reform, has largely been ignored by the industrial giants, under the pretext that a separate line of industry within the conglomerate lacks funds to stand on its own. Furthermore, it has been disclosed lately that taking advantage of bull markets by means of "stock watering", these industrial giants have amassed some large profits and some even have evaded paying the inheritance and donation taxes on these profits.

The government now perceives that this kind of "bullying" by the industrial giants can no longer be tolerated in an open society. It believes that it is inevitable for industrial giants to start their management reform to prevent the nation's middle/small size industries frin self-abandonment.

An official at the Korea Economic Planning Board said, "This new plan regarding industrial quality improvement is just a taste of what is to come in the medium and term plan." It suggested that more detailed and realistic measures would follow this announcement.

The present plan seems to draw a clear demarcation for "division of labor": the government's attention will be directed mainly to improvement in the industrial environment, including developing man power and technology as well as increases in indirect social capital, while improving industrial competitiveness should be dealt with by the industries themselves through their management reforms.

Recently, some members of the government and academia even talk of the "uselessness" of this Five-Year Economic Development Plan in view of the time discrepancy between the next presidential election and this five-year plan. It is true that a good portion of the seventh plan may have to be revised after the new government is formed at the end of next year.

If, however, industrial management reform is "the measles," an inevitable element for the country to enter into an advanced economy, many public hope that the future government should inherit this five-year plan regardless of the anticipated opposition by the financial circle and behind-the-scene negotiations within the political circle during the transitional stage of the government.

Burma

PRC Corporation Chairman Meets Minister

BK0801152192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. (Zhao Menxi), deputy chairman of China National Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation, CNTIC, accompanied by the commercial attache from the PRC Embassy, called on Lieutenant General Tin Tun, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and minister for transport and communication and for social welfare and labor, at the minister's office this evening at 1500.

At the meeting, matters relating to the planes produced by the corporation, extension plans for commercial plane services, and bilateral cooperation were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were U Win Sein, managing director of Myanmar [Burma] Railways; U Khin Maung Thein, managing director of Inland Water Transport, and other responsible personnel.

Saw Maung, Entourage Arrive Mandalay 8 January

BK0801144392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander in chief of the Defense Forces, and his wife, Daw Aye Yi, accompanied by Lieutenant General Phone Myint, minister for home and religious affairs and for information and culture; Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC; Rear Admiral Than Nyunt, Naval chief of staff; Major General Thein Win, Air Force chief of staff; Brigadier General Myo Thant, director of Signals, ministry of defense; Colonel Than Tun, deputy director, Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; responsible personnel from the office of the SLORC chairman and the SLORC office; the director general of the department for the propagation of faith; and other responsible personnel left Yangon [Rangoon] by military aircraft at noon today and arrived at Mandalay airport at 1345. [passage omitted]

Sr. Gen. Saw Maung and his entourage, on arrival at the guest house in Mandalay Nan Myo [old palace and central military command headquarters], were welcomed by dependent family members and student cheer leaders. Sr. Gen. Saw Maung and his entourage then briefly rested at the guest house in Mandalay Nan Myo.

SLORC Issues Decree Abolishing More Parties

BK0901043192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Order No. 1/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council abolishing some political parties, dated 8 January 1992]

[Text] Order abolishing political parties whose candidates have not been elected and who have not even been able to present the organizational standing of their parties:

1. In accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections granted the registration of 235 political parties that wished to run in the multiparty democratic general elections.

2. The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] had, by issuing orders, abolished political parties that had not run in the multiparty elections and political parties that had not run in at least three constituencies.

3. Similarly, the Elections Commission, having found on closer scrutiny that certain political parties from among political parties, which have been granted registration under the Political Parties Registration Law, have infringed upon the provisions of the said law, have also by issuing announcements cancelled the registration originally granted.

4. Furthermore, as certain political parties from among political parties that have been granted registration, have on their volition submitted to abolish their party organization, the Elections Commission has by issuing announcements cancelled the registration of the aforesaid political parties.

5. At present there remain only 74 registered political parties that had been granted registration. The Elections Commission has submitted that it believes since these remaining political parties have, after being granted registration as political parties, been engaged in organization activity for about three years, their political standing and organizational situation have reached a reasonable stage of stability. However, it is found on scrutiny that certain political parties have not been able to get their candidates elected and that they have not even been able to present the organizational standing of their parties.

The commission is of the opinion that in implementing a compact and stable multiparty democratic system, such political parties should not be allowed to continue their existence.

6. As such, the SLORC, in accordance with the submission of the Elections Commission, has abolished with effect from this day the following registered political parties, whose candidates have not been elected and which have not even been able to present the organizational standing of their party.

A. League of Democratic Alliances
B. Union of Myanmar [Burma] Democratic Front
C. Myanmar United Democratic Party
D. Rakhine Nationalities Democracy Party
E. Rakhine National Unity Organization
F. Amyotha Party

7. This order shall have the force of law.

By the authority vested in me.

Signed: Khin Nyunt, major general, secretary-1 of the SLORC

Reportage on Revocation of Elected NLD MPs

Status of 2 MPs

BK0801150192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Announcement No. 997 of the Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar, dated 8 January 1992]

[Text] The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] issued announcement No. 997 on 8 January 1991.

Subject: Nullification of the status as People's Assembly Representatives of two persons who infringed Section 11-K of the People's Assembly Election Law.

1. The following persons from the National League for Democracy [NLD], who were elected as People's Assembly Representatives during the multiparty democratic general election on 27 May 1990 have been found to be guilty of the offenses listed below:

A. U Maung Maung Myint, DZ003731, Yamethin Township constituency-1, Mandalay Division—Section 5 Subsection 1-F and 1- G and Section 290 of the Penal Code.

B. U Aung Kyi Nyunt, 10/KHASANA-NAING 003116, Chaungzon Township constituency-1, Mon State—Section 436/109 of the Penal Code.

2. They are found to have infringed Section 11-K of the People's Assembly Election Law and hence no longer have the right to continue to be people's assembly representatives. Their status as elected representatives has been nullified.

3. It is also hereby announced that in accordance with Section 80-B of the People's Assembly Election Law, the person mentioned in section 1-A shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the next 10 years, and in accordance with Section 80-A of the People's Assembly Election Law, the person mentioned in section 1-B shall no longer have the right to run for elections in the future.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary.

More Removals Announced

BK1001071792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Press release No. 2/92 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections, dated 9 January 1992]

[Text] The commission has put on record the following submissions from registered political parties and persons concerned:

1. U Hkun Bun, has informed that he has resigned as information officer-2 and member of the Kachin State National Congress for Democracy [KSNDC].

2. U Khin Maung Maung has been allowed to resign as deputy chairman-2 and member of the Central Executive Committee of the Union Nationalities Democracy Party [UNDP].

3. U Thein has been allowed to resign as patron of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League [AFPFL], Original Headquarters.

4. U Win Tin and U Aung Lwin, former members of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy [NLD] and U Tin Shwe, U Tun Tin, and U Moe Thu, former members of the NLD Panel of Chairmen have been removed as ordinary members of the league and U Ko Yu, former member of the NLD Presidium, has been allowed to resign as ordinary member of the league.

Rebel Leader Say Soldiers Killed in Tak Fighting

BK0801032992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] More than 100 Burmese troops have been killed in a week-long offensive launched on New Year's Day against a Karen rebel stronghold opposite Tak's Umphang District, an anti-Rangoon leader claimed yesterday.

Dr Abdul Razak, a leader of the All Burma Muslim Union (ABMU), said that more than 1,000 Burmese troops had tried to move into a Karen rebel area at Azien Camp located opposite Umphang District.

However, the government troops were encircled by a combined force of rebels from the All Burmese Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), ABMU and Karen ethnic groups about five kilometres from the camp.

The prolonged battle led to the deaths of more than 100 government troops, said Razak who is also a leader of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, an umbrella body of the anti-Rangoon resistance. He added that only four rebels were killed and seven injured in the fighting. His claims could not be independently confirmed.

Razak said that during the attack, which was still continuing as of yesterday, the Burma junta had sent a plane to bomb the guerillas but it did not inflict any damage.

The fighting has forced the evacuation of more than 10,000 Karen people in 20 villages nearby to an area close to the border opposite Umphang District.

A border patrol police source said that about 2,500 Karens who fled from Burma were found residing in some border villages in Umphang District.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

PRC's Yang Shangkun Arrives for Official Visit

BK1001062092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] President Yang Shangkun of China has arrived in Kuala Lumpur for a five-day visit to Malaysia. Mr. Yang, [words indistinct] attend an official welcoming ceremony at parliament here later on the day. In his arrival statement, he expressed the hope that the visit will enhance mutual understanding and interests between the two countries.

Mr. Yang's visit, the first by a Chinese head of state, reciprocates a visit by His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah to China in September. The Chinese president will hold talks with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed tomorrow before making a three-day tour of northern resort island of Langkawi in Penang.

Investment Guarantee Accord Signed With Denmark

BK0801100792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 92 p 14

[By Zainul Arifin and M. Jefri Razali]

[Text] Malaysia and Denmark yesterday signed a bilateral investment guarantee agreement which provides, among others, protection for investors from both countries against nationalisation, expropriation and measures to that effect.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz who represented Malaysia at the signing said despite Malaysia's proven positive treatment of foreign investors such an agreement will provide further assurance to them and help accelerate Malaysia's industrialisation process.

The signing, the 22nd between Malaysia and foreign countries, also provides for adequate and prompt compensation in the event of nationalisation or expropriation in accordance with the due process of international law.

The agreements offered to all countries are standardised, with slight variations to meet individual interpretations of the law and requirements.

Such an agreement is usually offered upon request, with most previous signatories being those from developed countries, although China and United Arab Emirates have requested such an agreement before. By contrast, countries like Japan, South Korea, and the United States have not requested for the agreement.

Representing Denmark at the signing was its Minister for the Environment, Dr. Per Stig Moller.

Datuk Sri Rafidah also said in the absence of traditional linkages between the two countries, the agreement will hopefully make more Danish companies aware of Malaysia and the various business opportunities available to foreign investors.

She urged Danish investors to be more actively involved in Malaysia considering its strategic location and proximity to the East Asian and Pacific markets.

While there has been considerable interest by Danish companies to invest here lately, total investments remain relatively small. Between 1987 and November 1991, a total of 16 manufacturing projects with a total proposed capital investments of about $227.3 million were approved. The figure compared favourably against 14 projects totalling only $17.2 million between 1980 and 1986.

Danish projects approved in the last ten years were mainly in the non-metalic industries, food and beverages, and chemical, with a total investment of $129 million as at December 1990.

On trade, Denmark was Malaysia's eighth largest trading partner among the European Community countries, or 0.98 per cent of Malaysia's total trade with the group. For the first nine months of last year total trade with Denmark was $312.7 million.

Datuk Seri Rafidah said Denmark's strategic location in Northern Europe and its liberal trade policies would auger well for greater trade between Malaysia and Denmark.

Singapore

PRC's Yang Shangkun Discusses Asia Trip

BK0901095192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 92 p 26

["Written interview" with PRC President Yang Shangkun by STRAITS TIMES correspondent Sonny Goh—place, date not given]

[Text] The Straits Times [ST]: What is the significance of your visit to Southeast Asia?

President Yang: I am going to pay state visits to the Republic of Singapore and to Malaysia at the invitation of His Excellency President Wee Kim Wee and His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah.

I am very happy at the opportunity to visit the two Asean countries for the first time.

Both Singapore and Malaysia are friendly neighbours of China. Our peoples enjoy a long history of cordial contacts and a profound traditional friendship.

China and the Asean countries share a large degree of common understanding on a number of major international issues.

Over the past few years, the two sides have conducted fruitful co-operation with a view to safeguarding regional peace and stability and promoting the political settlement of the Cambodian question.

China has now established or restored diplomatic relations with all the six Asean countries and has started the dialogue process with Asean.

Economically, China and the Asean countries have a great potential for co-operation with their strong complementarity.

The Asean countries have now become major partners of China in trade and economic co-operation.

I am convinced that my visits will further promote China's relations with the Asean countries and have a positive impact on peace and development in the region.

ST: What is the importance of co-operation between China and Singapore.

Mr Yang: China and Singapore established formal diplomatic relations in October 1990, which marked the beginning of a new era in our bilateral relations.

But even before that, our friendly contacts, including exchange of visits between leaders, were already quite frequent.

The volume of our bilateral trade in 1991 is estimated to be in the order of US$3 billion.

Singaporean investment in China is growing. Our co-operation in science and high-tech and exchange of skills is also gradually unfolding.

Our two countries share a common desire for peace and development and enjoy a broad prospect in the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations and cooperation on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

ST: What are the issues to be discussed? What do you hope to achieve?

Mr Yang: During the visit, I will have discussions with Singaporean leaders on ways to further develop our bilateral relations and exchange views with them on the international situation and regional issues.

I am convinced that this visit will serve the purpose of enhancing understanding, deepening friendship and promoting co-operation, thereby bringing about new vitality for the friendly relations and co-operation between China and Singapore.

ST: What is the role of China in the Asia-Pacific region?

Mr Yang: The current international situation is turbulent and volatile, but the situation in Asia is comparatively stable.

As one of the countries in the Asia-Pacific region, China has all along attached great importance to the security, stability and development of the region.

In order to contribute to peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region, we should, first and foremost, handle our own affairs well.

A politically stable China enjoying economic growth is itself an important contribution to peace and stability in the region.

At present, China, concentrating on its modernisation drive, needs a long-term peaceful external environment. China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace and pays particular attention to its relations with the countries in its surrounding areas.

We stand for the establishment of a new international political and economic order on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, the essence of which is non-interference in the internal affaris of other countries and respect for the right of the people of all countries to determine their own destiny.

We stand for the peaceful resolution of all disputes between states. If no solution can be reached, the parties concerned should put the disputes aside for the time being instead of resorting to the use of force.

Strictly abiding by the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence in its relations with other countries, China will never seek its own spheres of influences or hegemony.

We attach great importance to, and will continue to strengthen, our friendly relations and co-operation with Asia-Pacific countries.

We will take an active part in regional economic co-operation, strengthen trade contacts and work in a common endeavour for peace and development of the region.

ST: How is social, political and economic progress getting on in China?

Mr Yang: Since the adoption of the policy of reform and opening up in 1978, the Chinese government and people have, with one heart and one mind, achieved remarkable successes after surmounting difficulties on the road of advance.

During this period, China's economy maintained a fairly high rate of growth and the people's livelihood improved markedly.

Democracy and the legal system were reinforced. And political reforms made continued headway.

In the year 1991 that has just pased, China adhered to the socialist road which meets the needs of China's national conditions.

By taking economic development as the central task and deepening the reform and opening up, we succeeded in achieving political stability, economic development, national unity and social stability through the concerted efforts of the people of all nationalities.

The GNP last year was estimated to have increased by 7 per cent.

Despite severe natural disasters last year, our agricultural production was the second best in history, with the grain output reaching 435 million tonnes.

Exports and imports continued to expand, both at a rate of over 16 percent over the previous year.

Investments from overseas kept growing, resulting in over 10,000 ventures with overseas investments.

We are full of confidence in China's future.

Speaks on Regional Peace, Development

BK0901143692 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Chinese president, Mr. Yang Shangkun, says the disintegration of the Soviet Union has provided a historical opportunity for Asian countries to strengthen their cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Such cooperation will lead to further stability and development in the region and a happier and more prosperous life.

In an exclusive interview with SBC [Singapore Broadcasting Corporation], Mr. Yang said China does not wish to see the recurrence of big power military rivalry and confrontation in the region. He said the common interests for the Asian countries lie in peace and development in the region.

On the prospects of Japan playing a greater role in regional security, Mr. Yang said owing to historical reasons, any form of Japanese presence abroad would be a sensitive issue. China hopes that the Japanese Government would handle the issue carefully.

On economic relations between China and Singapore, Mr. Yang said a good foundation already exists.

Cambodia

U.S. MIA Delegation Makes 1-Day Visit 9 Jan

BK1001061292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 10—A delegation for research of American servicemen missing in action in Indochina led by Ms. Frances Zwenig, left here Thursday after one day visit to Cambodia.

During its stay here, the delegation had talks with Deputy Interior Minister Nuon Saret, who is also president of the Committee for Research of American Servicemen Missing in Cambodia; Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo, and other senior Cambodian officials.

The talks focussed on plan of action of the two MIA committes for the cooperation in 1992.

Charles Twining, U.S. special diplomatic representative to the Supreme National Council, was also present at the talks.

UN To Expand Advance Mission Staff, Workers

BK1001063792 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0140 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 9—In a report from the UN, AFP said the UN Security Council Wednesday [8 January] agreed to send another 1,000 workers to Cambodia to make road repairs and to clear away the hundreds of thousands of land mines sown during the civil war.

In approving Resolution 728 by a unanimous vote, the 15-member council backed a report by former Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar requesting the reinforcement of the UN preparatory mission to Cambodia by about 1,000 personnel.

The mission, in place since November 15, currently has 250 members.

The council resolution orders the addition of teams of mine-clearing experts and engineers for bridges and highways, in advance of the arrival of the UN operation in Cambodia.

On December 30, a day before he finished his term as secretary general, Perez de Cuellar issued a report calling for the dispatch of additional mine-clearing experts to Cambodia and the formation of local de-mining teams.

Those teams would essentially be composed of Thais, diplomatic sources said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated 300 Cambodians lose limbs to mines every month, and an equal number may be losing their lives. The mines also restrict available farming land to settle returning Cambodians.

Perez de Cuellar also requested that about 700 civilian specialists be sent to begin repair of the war-shattered country's road infrastructure.

The preparatory mission is to merge with the next UN operation proposed for Cambodia, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The United Nations has not yet finished evaluating the cost and the number of people that would be needed for the operation.

UNTAC may have up to 20,000 personnel—half of them military—and is to organize free and fair elections under a UN-sponsored October peace accord that ended Cambodia's 13-year civil war.

'Enemies' Said Planning To Ruin SNC Meeting

BK1001010692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report from Kompong Thom Province, the provincial committee selected and sent some eloquent individuals from Vietnamese state authorities to Phnom Penh on 9 January 1992 to organize a stage on which accusations would be hurled against Democratic Kampuchea when a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] was about to take place on 11 January 1992.

The report added that all old and new enemies who were opposed to the Paris accord and the holding of any SNC meeting in Phnom Penh carried out all manner of maneuvers to serve their darkest design. They did not think of the Cambodian nation and people in the least.

After hearing the report, Kompong Thom Province's people were absolutely furious. They were resolved to continue the struggle against those enemies until their localities are placed under the authority of the SNC chaired by Cambodian head of state Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which will exert control over all Vietnamese and Cambodian forces with a view to ensuring that the cease-fire is implemented and security is assured in their localities.

Vietnamese Said Intensifying Resupply of Forces

BK1001042392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] According to informed sources in Phnom Penh, the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh faction are now intensifying the transportation of ammunition and armaments from their repositories in the capital city to supply their troops currently launching offensives on the Cambodian national resistance forces' liberated zones in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang, Pursat, Kompong Speu Provinces, and so on.

The reports add that a Vietnamese ammunition convoy recently planned to leave Phnom Penh for Kompong Thom Province but the departure was postponed due to fear of discovery by the United Nations. However, the Vietnamese commanders in Phnom Penh later ordered the convoy to detour around the city and leave at night to avoid being caught by the United Nations.

The event is clear evidence that if a first contingent of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia composed of at least 1,000 personnel is not dispatched to Cambodia to jointly work with the four Cambodian parties to exert control in Phnom Penh and at various important strategic points, activities encroaching upon the accord in Phnom Penh and various places will not be brought to an end.

The general public holds that if the violations are allowed to continue, large-scale fighting will certainly erupt soon.

The Cambodian nation and people, who have fought the Vietnamese enemy aggressors for over 13 years, have sufficient experience in the struggle against the invaders and their cronies on the military, political, and diplomatic battlefields. The people are not so stupid that they will allow the Vietnamese and their accomplices to disturb the peace accord at will. The Cambodian nation and people have the right and freedom to act to have the Paris accord correctly and meticulously implemented.

Attacks Said Continuing

BK1001032692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Jan 92

["Warning From the Entire Cambodian Nation and People to the Vietnamese Aggressors and Occupiers of Cambodia"]

[Text] According to reports from every corner of Cambodia, since mass demonstrations against the Vietnamese authorities and the Vietnamese aggressor forces spread throughout the country, hidden Vietnamese troops as well as Vietnamese aggressor authorities have increasingly intensified their criminal activities against our Cambodian nation and people everywhere. They have shelled our people's villages with artillery and multiple rocket launchers and plundered and summarily massacred our people.

The Vietnamese aggressors are perturbed because they have lost the war on Cambodia's battlefields and the battle in the international arena and also the Paris accord demands that they withdraw from Cambodia. As such, they have carried out all manner of maneuvers to oppose the Paris accord and the Supreme National Council [SNC] and prevent the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] from coming to the country. Aside from that, their armed elements have continued to invade Cambodian villages, communes, and districts, plundering, executing, and planting mines to kill the people. The move is aimed at intimidating the people rising up against them so they can further occupy the country.

The history of the past 13 years clearly shows that the Cambodian people both inside and outside the country have never allowed the Vietnamese to invade and occupy Cambodia at will. As long as the Vietnamese aggressors continue to invade and occupy the country, the Cambodian nation and people will continue to closely unite to struggle against them until they are forced to correctly and meticulously implement the Paris accord and until UNTAC comes to work in conjunction with the SNC to verify the complete withdrawal of their aggressor forces.

Hun Sen Sends Condolences Over Vietnamese Storm

BK0901133192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], said in a recent cable to H.E. Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SRV: I was shocked to learn recently that a violent storm in the province of Quang Nam-Da Nang caused many deaths among the Vietnamese people as well as serious damage to their property.

On behalf of the SOC Government and the Cambodian people and in my own name, I would like to express heartfelt condolences to the SRV Government, the Vietnamese people, and the bereft families. I firmly believe that under the intelligent leadership of the Vietnam Communist Party and the SRV Government, the Vietnamese people will overcome all the difficulties caused by this natural disaster.

Leaders Receive National Day Wishes From SRV

BK1001060692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0416 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 10—Cambodian state leaders received recently warmest greetings from Vietnamese state leaders on the occasion of the 13th National Day of Cambodia (January 7).

In a message jointly signed by Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council; Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, and addressed to Heng Samrin, president of the State Council of the State of Cambodia; Chea Sim, president the National Assembly, and Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Vietnamese leaders said:

"Over the past 13 years, the Cambodian people, under the leadership of the People's Party of Cambodia, have overcome untold difficulties and trials and obtained great successes in all fields.

"The economy, culture and society have been restored and made progress. Security is ensured and the people's living conditions have stabilized and improved.

"The State of Cambodia has made active and effective contributions to reaching a political solution to the Cambodian issue culminating in the signing of Paris Agreement.

"At the same time it is playing a major role in the implementation of national reconciliation and concord in Cambodia. The State of Cambodia's role and position is rising on the international arena.

"The Vietnamese people warmly welcome those great achievements and sincerely wish that the Cambodian people firmly maintain peace realise national reconciliation and concord and build a Cambodia in peace, independence, and prosperity friendly with all countries in the world, firstly with its neighbours."

Kong Sam-ol Meets Mekong Committee Officer

BK0901144692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Kong Sam-ol, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister attached to the cabinet of the Council of Ministers, had a working session with H.E. Chuck Lancaster, executive agent of the Bangkok-based International Mekong Committee [IMC], at the office of the National Mekong Committee of Cambodia in the afternoon of 4 January.

The two sides focused mainly on the preparations for Cambodia's qualification to attend the IMC plenary session soon to be held in Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand, when the Cambodian National Mekong Committee will be inducted as an IMC member. The talks also centered on Japan's and Australia's financial support through the UN Development Program in the rehabilitation of the Phnom Penh port and a number of hydraulic projects, such as the Prek Thnaot River in Kompong Speu, Kandal, and Takeo Provinces and the Chinit River in Kompong Thom Province.

H.E. Kong Sam-ol also called for urgent IMC assistance in the reconstruction of a number of irrigation networks heavily damaged by the recent unprecedented floods in Cambodia.

Hungary Donates Angkor Wat Preservation Project

BK1001070792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] On 7 January at Khemarin Pavilion, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], signed a project on surveying and including the temple of Angkor Wat and its vicinity in the [words indistinct] system.

The project, presented to the samdech by His Excellency Lajos Tamas—Hungarian ambassador to Cambodia—on the same day, is a response to a request calling for restoration and preservation of the irrigation system in the Angkor Wat temple's vicinity with a view to promoting tourism in the Angkor domain and Siem Reap provincial town.

On behalf of the entire Cambodian people, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk highly valued Hungary's initiative, which constitutes a contribution to safeguarding and preserving the world wonder.

French Parliamentary Delegation Leaves 7 Jan

BK1001045092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0152 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 9—French parliamentary delegation led by Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, left Phnom Penh Tuesday, ending its four-day visit to Cambodia.

During its stay here, the delegation had talks at separate occasions with Chea Sim, president of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland; and Hun Sen, vice president of the party and prime minister.

It also paid courtesy visit to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), at the royal palace.

Michel Vauzelle and his delegates also had talk with Hor Namhong, foreign minister and member of the SNC. He also talked with other member of the SNC from the KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] (Son Sann faction) and representatives of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and French humanitarian organizations in Cambodia.

The delegation visited the Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap Province and several cultural establishments in Phnom Penh.

Indonesia

Singapore's Facilities to U.S. Navy Questioned

BK1001080892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] KEDAULATAN RAKYAT says that in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed in 1990, ASEAN countries have agreed not to allow their territories to be turned into foreign military bases. Against this background, it is normal for Indonesia and Malaysia to have questioned Singapore's decision. While the Singapore Government is trying hard to convince its neighbors that the military facilities it provides to the U.S. Navy will not lead to the creation of a military base in that country, it is not clear to what extent the neighbors are convinced. KEDAULATAN RAKYAT says it all depends on future actions by Singapore and the United States.

BERITA YUDHA believes that PRC President Yang Shangkun, who is currently visiting Singapore and Malaysia, will also question the Singapore Government's decision.

Further Reportage on Dili Incident in East Timor

U.S. Senators 'Impressed'

BK0901114292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1000 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 9 (OANA-ANTARA)—Two American senators, Daniel K. Inouye and Ted Stevens said that they were impressed by the steps taken by the Indonesian Government in dealing with the Dili incident.

After meeting with President Suharto here in Jakarta, the two senators said that what has been done by the Indonesian Government in handling the incident was very impressive.

Stevens further said on the occasion that the visit to Indonesia and other countries was aimed at having more comprehensive knowledge on the impact of the political reform in East Europe and the [former] Soviet Union.

The visit was also aimed at seeking more input for the construction [as received] of the American national budget which would be discussed in parliament next October.

Ted Stevens from Republican Party and Daniel K. Inouye from Democrat Party are also scheduled to visit Australia and Taiwan.

During their visit, the two senators had also met with speaker of the House of the People's Representatives, M. Kharis Suhud.

Officials Questioned

BK0901114892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1005 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Jan 9 (OANA-ANTARA)—Home Affairs Minister Rudini said here on Thursday that a number of East Timor Regional Government officials are now under investigation by the police in connection with the November 12 incident in Dili.

"They are under the investigation of the police to find out whether they are involved in the incident," the minister said when installing a number of echelon I and II officials in his ministry.

He said that he has received a report from a team which was sent to East Timor some time ago by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The team, chaired by Home Ministry Secretary General Nugroho, has returned to Jakarta, but its reports still have to be studied further, the minister said.

Rudini refused to name the officials who are being questioned by the police for the sake of the good names of their families.

"We do not know whether they are truly involved and it is the court which could prove it if they are guilty," the minister added.

Rudini said that the Ministry of Home Affairs team also found useful data which indicate that the technical and operational skills of regional government officials in Dili are still not good so that they still have to be trained.

The team also found that there are no illiterate employees who occupy administrative posts in the East Timor Regional Government office such as previously reported.

Referring to reports which said that about 4,000 employees of the East Timor Regional Government office will enter pension period soon because of illiteracy and over 40 years old age, the minister said that he had not yet received reports from the East Timor governor on that matter.

"If the criterion to put them in the pension period is based on the regulation, the plan is just right," he added. [passage omitted]

Final Report in One Month

BK1001110092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1017 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 10 (OANA/ANTARA)—A member of the National Investigation Commission on the Dili incident in East Timor on November 12 last year said here on Friday that the final report of the commission would be completed around one month.

Clementino Dos Reis Amaral who come from the parliament (DPR) said that the commission members had conducted meetings in a hotel here since January 8.

Commission members come from the Supreme Court, the Parliament, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Supreme Advisory Council.

According to Amaral the needed data had been considered sufficient so that there was a slight possibility for the commission to make a re-visit to East Timor.

He said he could not as yet tell whether the final report which would only give complementary details to the initial report would be directly handed over to the president or only to an assistant to the president.

Amaral said he thought it was no longer necessary for foreign parties to come to East Timor in connection with the incident because the commission's report could be considered as having described the real picture of the incident.

He said detailed information from witnesses and other accounts would be clearly elaborated along with notes and data in the following report, which is scheduled to be finished early February.

The commission in its initial report states among other things that the incident in East Timor last year has claimed 50 lives.

German Minister Assures ASEAN of EC Concern

BK0901123592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0914 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 09 (OANA-ANTARA)—Minister of state at the German Foreign Office, Mrs. Seiler-Albring, has stated that the European Community (EC) is conscious of its obligation to the Third World, including in promoting cooperation with the member countries of ASEAN.

The EC would not put aside the Third World's concern about the EC becoming a closed grouping but would pay full attention to that problem, she said at a lecture before a number of participants at the Foreign Ministry's foreign affairs forum at the Caraka Loka Building, Senayan on Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Seiler-Albring, who is currently visiting Indonesia (from January 7 through 13, 1992), before delivering her lecture entitled "Integration of Europe and the Consequences to the ASEAN Countries," had also a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Foreign Office.

She went on to explain that the EC which had 12 member countries, namely Germany, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, and Greece would not close itself from the Third World economically as well as politically.

She further pointed out that Third World countries' concern about the European single market was particularly due to a possible reduction in export opportunities in the trade with the EC.

The EC Commission on the other hand estimated that the export volume from the countries of the Third World would probably increase by seven percent after the European single market became operational in 1992, the German minister of state said.

She admitted, however, that not all Third World countries would benefit from the various oppoprtunities created by the European single market.

According to Mrs. Seiler-Albring, raw material-producing countries, namely Third World countries would probably benefit because of the increasing demands for raw materials.

But with regard to finished products, the situation would be different because the decisive factor would be competitiveness of the supplying countries themselves, German State Minister Mrs. Seiler Albring remarked.

Burma Airways Jakarta-Rangoon Flight Inaugurated

BK0901131792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Cahyo Adi, director for air traffic and transport of the Directorate General for Air Communications, who represented Communications Minister Azwar Anas, has inaugurated the first flight of Myanmar [Burma] Airways between Jakarta and Yangon [Rangoon] at Sukarno-Hatta Airport. The Jakarta-Yangon flight of the Fokker F-28 plane, piloted by Captain Khin Soe, who is also Myanmar Airways managing director, with 30 passengers aboard will take five hours via Singapore.

The Indonesian ambassador to Myanmar, Makadada, said that the Jakarta-Yangon flight would be operated twice weekly—Thursdays and Sundays—with the plane departing at 1420 West Indonesian Standard Time. According to Ambassador Makadada, Myanmar is a potential country for Indonesian investors because most of the goods in that country are made in Indonesia. However, they cannot be shipped directly there but have to go through Singapore. He hoped that the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry would help Indonesian businessmen take advantage of good opportunities there.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan Continues Visit to Thailand

BK1001085992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] At 1420 on 9 January, His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, together with His Royal Highness Prince Maha Wichiralongkon and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, granted an audience at the Chitlada throne hall of the Dusit Palace to His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife to bid farewell to them after an official visit to Thailand as state guests of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. Later, His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, together with H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR, and his royal highness the crown prince, along with wife of the LPDR president, her royal highness the princess, and Thongsavan Phomvihan, son of the LPDR president, proceeded in royal cars from the Chitlada throne hall of the Dusit Palace to the military airport to see H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR, his wife, and delegation off to Chiang Mai Province. When they arrived at the front building of the air force headquarters, they were welcomed by Anan Panyarachun, the prime minister, and his wife; Police General Phao Sarasin, deputy prime minister; Asa Sarasin, foreign minister; Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, air force commander; and many other high-ranking officials. His majesty the king then led his excellency the president of the LPDR to the reception hall of the airport to allow distinguished personages to bid farewell to his excellency the LPDR president and his wife. Afterwards, his excellency the LPDR president and his wife bade farewell to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and other personages. His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet then led his excellency the LPDR president to the platform at the airport runway to accept respects from the guards of honor. The Lao and Thai national anthems were played respectively. His majesty the king then led H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, his wife, and son to walk to the royal airplane, which was granted by his majesty the king to take his excellency the LPDR president and party to Chiang Mai. His majesty the king also allowed His Royal Highness Prince Maha Wachiralongkon to accompany his excellency the LPDR president and party to Chiang Mai Province.

Before boarding the royal airplane, his excellency the LPDR president and wife once again bade farewell to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon.

The royal plane arrived at Chiang Mai airport at 1620. His Royal Highness Prince Maha Wachiralongkon led his excellency the LPDR president, his wife, and son to get off the royal plane. They were welcomed at the airport by governor of Chiang Mai Province along with northern royalties and a large crowd of high-ranking officials.

During the stay in Chiang Mai Province, H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan visited the royally-initiated development project of Houi Hongkhai in Doi Sadet District. He is also scheduled to visit the traditional art and handicrafts center, the hilltribe development project, and some major historical places. On the evening of 9 January, the Chiang Mai provincial governor also hosted a banquet in honor of the LPDR president and wife.

Prior to their departure for Chiang Mai, at 1400 on 9 January H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, his wife, and party went to the permanent pavilion of the Bangkok metropolis to attend a farewell ceremony, which was organized for them by Major General Chamlong Simuang, Bangkok governor, and high-ranking officials of the metropolis. After having conversation and bidding farewell, the Bangkok governor and his wife presented souvenir items and garlands of flowers to his excellency the LPDR president and his wife.

Improvement in Relations With Thailand Noted

BK0801145592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[PASASON article: "Lao-Thai Relations Have Been Firmly Improved With Every Passing Day"; date not given]

[Text] Respected listeners, history notes that the Lao and Thai peoples are kindred brothers for they share similar (?traditions), customs, culture, and languages. All these are the special, common characterisitcs shared by Lao and Thai peoples.

In the past (?few) years, the relations between the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Kingdom of Thailand have been elevated to a higher level. Leaders of the two countries have tried their best to bring peace to the peoples of the two countries on the basis of the 1978 and 1988 joint communiques signed by the governments of the two sides.

Of course, of late numerous developments have pointed to the emergence of such relations. The most prominent development is the current visit to Thailand by the LPDR president. In addition, in the past His Majesty the King of Thailand also granted audiences to many high-level leaders of the LPDR while they were on a visit to that country. In the meantime, the LPDR president has also extended warm greetings to the (?Thai prime minister) and other high-level Thai leaders. The LPDR Government conferred the Kiattikhoun Order on Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon on the occasion of her recent 36th birthday, thus opening a new era for the (?development of relations) between the two countries.

In addition, a friendship bridge will also be constructed across the Mekong River between Thailand and Laos with assistance worth some U.S. $30 million from the Australian Government. The construction of this bridge not only constitutes a symbol of friendship between the two countries and confers mutual benefits, but is also (?a sign) of cooperation among the countries in this region.

Moreover, in recent years, the governments of the two countries have also set up a number of joint committees for the two countries, such as the Joint Lao-Thai Cooperation Committees to promote economic, social, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation; the Joint Lao-Thai Border Committees (?to resolve) border problems; and [words indistinct].

In the trading sector, the governments of the two countries signed an agreement on cross border trading activities aimed at promoting government-to-government trading transactions and trading between private sectors on the basis of mutual benefits. In addition, the two sides have also agreed to cooperate with each other in promoting tourism, especially in preserving natural and cultural heritages. The Thai Government has provided (?scholarships) to some 200 Lao personnel for short-term training programs in many fields in Thailand. In 1991 alone, 133 Lao personnel have already attended such training programs in Thailand. The rest will undertake such training in 1992. In the recent past, the Thai Government donated 500 metric tons of polished rice to Lao people in many provinces who were affected by recent natural calamities.

The exchange of visits by the high-level military delegations between the two countries has (?served to) turn the Thai-Lao border into a border of genuine peace and friendship, thereby allowing the peoples along the border to visit one another more conveniently.

Judging from the above-mentioned realities, the majority of Lao and Thai peoples are convinced that in the future the relations and cooperation between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand [words indistinct] thanks to the efforts made by the two sides will be continually developed, thus allowing the two countries to gradually resolve any remaining obstacles and difficulties between them.

Prime Minister Meets French Assembly Delegation

BK1001045592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received at the Prime Minister's Office in Vientiane a courtesy call from a delegation of the French National Assembly led by Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French National Assembly.

On this occasion, the LPDR prime minister welcomed the friendship visit to the LPDR by the French National Assembly delegation. The visit, he said, has reflected the increasing growth and development of the friendly relations and solidarity between the peoples as well as between the national assemblies of the two countries. Khamtai Siphandon also expressed thanks to the French Government and people for the assistance they have given to Laos in the past as well as in the present. He highly assessed the assistance and expressed the conviction that that assistance and cooperation will be promoted and expanded more and more extensively on the basis of mutual benefits between the peoples of the two countries in the years to come.

Michel Vauzelle, head of the French National Assembly delegation, informed the LPDR prime minister of the success of his delegation's visit to the LPDR. He highly assessed the visit and hailed it as a contribution to the further enhancement of the friendly relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Financial Negotiations Conducted With France

BK1001095192 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 10 (KPL)—Financial negotiations have taken place in Paris on December 23, 1991 between a Lao delegation led by Mr. Thongphachan Sonnasin, director of cabinet of the Ministry for External Economic Relations, and a French delegation led by Mr. Zerah, deputy-director at the Treasury Direction of the Ministry for Economy, Finance and Budget. They were concluded by the signature of a grant protocol and an exchange of letters.

The financial protocol allows treasury grants for 17.3 million French francs, that is to say an increase of more than 25 percent in comparison with 1990, in order to finance the following projects:

—Microwaves line [between] Luang Prabang [and] Oudomsai (11.1 million French francs);

—Water conveyance in Tha Deua (5.4 million French francs);

—Pilot training for aircrafts (0.5 million French francs);

—Emergency generator for Vientiane Telex Central (0.3 million French francs).

For the following years, the French Government has accepted through an exchange of letters to study in particular development projects in Laos in different sectors: supplying of drinking water, telecommunications and airport equipment, in the framework of the the financial package devoted to the Lao-French financial cooperation. Both delegations agreed to meet again as soon as possible in order to the maturity of common interest projects [as received]. The discussions were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere that is a token of the quality of the Lao-French bilateral financial relations.

PRC, SRV Firms Awarded Construction Contracts

BK0901103092 Vientiane KPL in English 0932 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 9 (KPL)—The Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] Goverment has awarded the construction contracts of Road 13 North and South to two foreign construction companies, the Thian Sin Company of China and the Vietnamese Company for Road 18 Construction, disclosed recently Mr. Noi Indavong, deputy minister of communication, transport, post, and construction.

The Chinese company won the bid for the construction of Road 13 South section from Pak Kading to Savannakhet. This road section is 266-km long. With the ADB's [Asian Development Bank] loan. Its construction will take 4 and a half years.

The Vietnamese company won the bid for the construction of Road 13 North section from Kasi District to Luang Prabang Town. This road section is 110-km long. Its construction to be also funded by the ADB's loan will take 39 months.

The Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post, and Construction, the project's owner, is now discussing with the two awarded companies detailed work plans, which will be carried out right from early 1992.

Australian Economic Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK1001102292 Vientiane KPL in English 0948 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 10 (KPL)—An Australian delegation led by Mr. Tim Fischer of the National Party and shadow minister for energy and resources is paying an official visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] from Jan 10 to 12, 1992.

In Vientiane, Mr. Tim Fischer is scheduled to hold discussion with Mr. Soulivong Dalavong, acting minister of industry and handicraft, Mr. Bountiam Phitsamai, vice-minister of external economic relations, and Mr. Somphavan Inthavong, permanent member of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR.

Mr. Fischer's objectives are to make appraisals of the economy and energy situation and trade opportunities in the countries he proposes to visit.

Also included in Mr. Fischer's tour are Thailand, Cambodia, Korea, and Japan.

Two Drug Traffickers Arrested in Bokeo Province

BK0701100692 Vientiane KPL in English 0857 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 7 (KPL)—The police and customs of the northern Bokeo Province, last month, seized 33 kg of opium and arrested two male suspects.

The authority is now in the precess of filing the court case.

During the same month, the narcotics control commission of Bokeo destroyed 22 marijuana plantations in an area of 13 ha in Ban Boun village and 25 ha of plantation in Ton Pheung District.

Philippines

Singapore's Defense Minister Arrives in Manila

BK1001040892 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Jan 91 p 17

[Text] Singapore's Defence Minister, Dr Yeo Ning Hong, arrived in Manila yesterday on a three-day official visit.

The visit, his first to the Philippines as Defence Minister, is at the invitation of the country's Secretary of National Defence, General (Retired) Renato de Villa.

He will also call on President Corazon Aquino at the Malacanang Palace before leaving for home tomorrow.

On being appointed Minister for Defence last July, Dr Yeo embarked on a series of visits to the various ASEAN countries. He has already been to Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand.

He was accompanied to Manila by Mr Mohamad Maidin Packer, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Information and the Arts, Mr Peter Sung, Co-ordinating Chairman, Government Parliamentary Committee for Information and the Arts, Mr Teo Ming Kian, Second Permanent Secretary (Defence), Brigadier-General Michael Teo, Chief of Air Force, and senior Singapore Armed Forces officers.

Mindef [Ministry of Defense] said that Dr Yeo's visit reflected the friendly ties that existed between the Philippines and Singapore.

Holds Dialogue With Aquino

HK1001105492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The Philippines and Singapore will continue their military relation. This was the outcome of the dialogue between President Aquino and Singapore Defense Minister Yeo Ning Hong.

Minister Yeo was accompanied by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa in paying a courtesy call on President Aquino in Malacanang.

De Villa said the president and the minister have discussed the extension of exchanges between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Singapore Armed Forces in relation to the military training of its officials.

They have also discussed establishing security between the two military establishments.

Explains Hosting of U.S. Base

HK1001092992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 10 (AFP) - Singaporean Defense Minister Yeo Ning Hong on Friday explained to President Corazon Aquino his government's decision to host a U.S. Navy command center that will be moved out of the Philippines.

Philippine Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said after accompanying Yeo to an audience with Aquino that the visiting minister did not seek Manila's support for the move, which has caused come concern elsewhere in the region.

"He did not ask (support), he just explained that it is their policy to support the American presence in the region," De Villa told journalists.

Yeo, who was completing a regional swing, refused to give details about their meeting.

De Villa said Aquino told Yeo that "the relations between the Philippines and the United States will continue to be close despite the departure of U.S. forces from the Philippines."

Manila has given Washington until the end of 1992 to vacate Subic Naval Base after talks on a three-year pullout failed. The Philippines earlier rejected a 10-year lease sought by the United States.

After the notice of termination was served on Subic on December 31, U.S. officials said they had agreed in principle to transfer the U.S. 7th Fleet logistical command from the Subic to the city-state.

The command will include 200 personnel and dependents attached to Command Task Force 73, which handles supplies, port calls and other matters.

The announcement caused concern in neighboring Malaysia, which advocates a zone of neutrality in Southeast Asia.

Some 300 Islamic fundamentalists demonstrated before the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur after the transfer plan was disclosed.

Meanwhile, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the upcoming summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Singapore was expected to issue a declaration tacitly approving the U.S. presence in the region.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The summit communique was expected to refer to existing "security arrangements" as "contributing to the stability in the region," he said.

Greeted by Army Chief

HK1001035092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 10 Jan 92 p 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Senior defense and military officials yesterday assured Singaporean defense officials they would exhaust peaceful and diplomatic means to resolve the Spratly Island dispute.

"We would do everything to avoid conflict in the region," General Lisandro Abadia, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, told reporters after meeting with the Singaporean officials at Camp

Aguinaldo yesterday morning. "We assured them that the Spratly Islands' dispute would never be a source of instability in the region."

Abadia said the military also briefed the officials led by Minister Yeo Ning Hong on the internal security situation and on its 10-year modernization program.

"We never discussed the U.S. bases issue or anything related to the U.S. military presence in the region," he added.

A military official who attended the meeting said the Singaporeans are "quite sensitive" on the U.S. bases issue. He said the Singaporeans apparently wanted to assure us they are not allowing the U.S. to transfer their bases in their country, although they favor continued U.S. presence in the region.

"They cannot accommodate the U.S. facilities because of their limited space but they want the U.S. to remain in the region," the same military official said.

Abadia slso said the air force proposal to jointly construct an air bombardment range in Palawan was also not discussed but another senior armed forces official who attended the meeting said the proposal might be taken up during a private talk between the Singaporen defense minister and Abadia.

Under an air force proposal, the Philippines would allow the Republic of Singapore to base some of their fighters for training purposes at the Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa if the Singaporeans would agree to finance the construction and development of an air gunnery range in Palawan.

Singapore had a squadron of F-16s and F5Es at Clark Air Base before the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in June last year.

But the proposal to allow Singapore basing rights in Palawan could have legal problems because the new Constitution bans stationing any foreign forces in the country.

Abadia said the air force proposal was still "nebulous" but some air force officials said the Singaporeans are receptive to the idea.

Recognition of North Korea Reportedly Near

HK1001083492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 10 (AFP) - The Philippine Government is all set to formally recognize North Korea after Pyongyang signs an agreement allowing inspection of its nuclear facilities, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Friday.

"After North Korea signs the inspection agreement, and following their next meeting with South Korea sometime in the third week of February, there should be no more impediment to our establishing diplomatic relations," he said.

Manglapus said he had no plans so far to visit North Korea, but had sent Pyongyang a diplomatic note in December "expressing our readiness to accept them subject to these conditions."

Manila agreed to negotiate the normalization of relations after North Korea renounced its support for the banned Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army, which has been fighting a guerrilla struggle since 1969.

Philippine military officials earlier accused Pyongyang of arming the rebels, who are waging one of the last major Marxist insurgencies in the Third World.

Manila Pursues Relations With DPRK, Vietnam

HK1001094492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0918 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today announced that diplomatic relations will be established between the Philippines and North Korea next month. Manglapus also said Laos has hinted at its desire to become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is due to hold a summit meeting at the end of January to discuss ASEAN economic cooperation.

Meanwhile, Manglapus said the Philippines has requested the United States to send its Peace Corps back to the country. However, the United States does not agree to the Philippines' proposal to place the Peace Corps under Malacanang's management. The Philippine Government wants to monitor the activities of the Peace Corps in the country, which is why they are required to register with the Foreign Volunteers Service Organization.

In a press conference, Manglapus stated that a Philippine mission, headed by Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Pablo Suarez, is scheduled to go to Vietnam to talk about normalization of relations between the Philippines and Vietnam.

Swiss Reportedly Seize Marcos Deposits

HK1001060192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] The Swiss solicitor general has confiscated Marcos deposits worth $80 million in Switzerland as part of its legal assistance to the Philippines. According to Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, the $80-million Swiss deposits of the Marcoses are part of the $356 million deposited in Switzerland which the Philippine Government aims to recover. Chavez identified the Swiss solicitor general as Bernard (Berdoza) of Geneva, Switzerland. In view of this, Chavez explained that the Marcoses would have a difficult time withdrawing the deposits from the Swiss banks even if they won the criminal cases which he had filed against them because the money would remain confiscated.

Murder Charges Filed Against Imelda Marcos

HK1001100392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The government has formally filed murder charges against former First Lady Imelda Marcos, her daughter Irene Marcos-Araneta, and her son-in-law Gregorio Araneta. The murder case filed against Mrs. Marcos and the Aranetas pertains to the bloody demolition of squatter houses at the Tatalon Estates, owned by the Aranetas, seven years ago. The murder charges were filed by one of the residents of Barangay Tatalon whose son and neighbor were killed during the demolition. The case was filed at Quezon City Prosecutor Clarita Sanchez' court. According to Sanchez, a group of Philippine Marines assigned with the Malacanang Presidential Command were involved in the bloody demolition.

Economic Performance Fails To Gain IMF Approval

HK1001082392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 10 (AFP)—The Philippines' economic performance failed to get the approval of a review mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said Friday.

"No agreement has been reached," Cuisia said, adding that the fund and the government failed to agree on the country's deficit "among other things."

The IMF mission, which was reviewing Manila's compliance with an IMF economic program forged last year, was originally scheduled to return to Washington Friday after a week of reviews.

Asked if the government may extend the negotiations with the fund, Cuisia said "it may be a possibility. We don't know. We'll meet with (IMF mission head Bruce) Smith again."

The fund wanted Manila to control its growing deficits by passing four key revenue measures and increasing state-controlled power rates. But congress and sectoral groups are opposing both measures.

Failure to get the IMF approval will cost Manila about 400 million dollars in IMF credits. It is expected to serve as a signal to other foreign creditors to slow down the inflow of foreign funds to this country, thus delaying about five billion dollars in loans and debt relief agreements.

Air Force Begins Construction of Radar Complex

HK1001103392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By Loy Caliwan, DZRH Unit 10]

[Text] An advance group composed of 60 weathermen and engineering personnel from the Philippine Air Force [PAF] left Villamor Air Base to put up a weather facility in Palawan.

The weather station will be set up in a strategic location inside the Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation's concession in Batarasa, Palawan.

The construction of the PAF's modern weather station is stipulated in a memorandum of agreement between the air force and the mining company signed last year by Major General Loven Campo Abadia, air force chief, and lawyer Manuel Zamora Jr., president of the Rio Tuba Mining Corporation.

Air Force spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Dindo Dimapili, said the weather station will complete the country's air defense surveillance network. Colonel Dimapili added that the advance group is comprised of seven officials and 61 enlisted men who are expected to start the construction of ancillary facilities, such as a detachment headquarters, communications supply complex, officers' mess, enlisted men's quarters, and leisure and recreation rooms.

According to Colonel Dimapili, the memorandum of agreement stipulates that the Rio Tuba Mining Corporation must provide free water supplies and electricity for the weather station. Air Force personnel and their dependents will also be given access to the Rio Tuba School inside the mining complex.

The advance group is led by Colonel Jose C. Ermitano, Rio Tuba task force commander, and includes Air Force personnel from the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing Command, 355th Additional Engineering Wing Command, and 523d Civil Engineering Squadron Command.

[Begin recording] [Dimapili] General Loven Campo Abadia and General Gerry Payawan dispatched a group of Air Force personnel today to start construction of the radar complex in Rio Tuba, Palawan. The head of the task force is Colonel Jose Ermitano of the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing. This group will start to put up the detachment's headquarters, communication complex, supply buildings, and other facilities needed for the operation of the radar site.

This agreement was made between Rio Tuba and the PAF. The Rio Tuba Mining Corporation has agreed to give all PAF personnel acess to their facilities in Batarasa, Palawan [end recording]

Military Deploys 8,000 Men to Cordillera Region

HK1001113592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] have deployed about 8,000 soldiers to the Cordillera Region in order to clean up and dismantle the Communist movement in the area. This was reported by AFP Chief Lisandro Abadia. Here is Jossette Olivera with the details:

[Begin Olivera recording] The said region was the primary target of the military in order to rid it of the influence of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army because many towns and barangays are controlled by the Communists. Abadia said that it would be better if the enemy would come forward so that it would be easy for the troops to destroy their movement. Those deployed in the area comprise three brigades and several battalions of the Philippine Army. The Lambat Bitag II [Net Trap II] was started by the military, and consists of combined tactical and civil military operation. The military will give priority to the civic operation in order to attract members from the leftist movement to go back to the fold of the government and to get back the confidence of the masses in the government. [end recording]

Thailand

Prime Minister Discusses Coming Vietnam Visit

Outlines Agenda for Talks

BK1001041692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Changes in the region and the world have opened up new opportunities in international relations and peace. Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun indicates that he will be discussing with the Vietnamese leaders the emergence of this exciting new era when he visits Vietnam next week.

The prime minister told reporters that security issues have taken a whole new perspective, armed defenses will be incidents of the past. In this context, talks to be held will focus on the revising of certain trade restrictions and future economic cooperation and trade ties.

Thailand stands ready to render assistance in economic reform and national reconstruction in Vietnam, the prime minister stated.

Seeks Trade 'Appeal' Clarification

BK1001011792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday he would seek clarification from Vietnamese leaders on their request for Bangkok to help negotiate an end to the US trade ban on Vietnam during his three-day visit there next week.

When asked to comment on the Vietnamese request Anan said the question should be directed at Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to whom the Vietnamese addressed the appeal. However, he would discuss the matter with the Vietnamese leaders during his visit, he said.

Hanoi made the request earlier this week when Gen Suchinda was visiting the country on a trip intended to ease suspicions between Thailand and its former military foe.

Vietnam said the continued US embargo has impeded the revival of the country's flagging economy.

Foreign Minister Asa said on Suchinda's return that he hoped the United States would accelerate the lifting of the trade embargo in a show of its constructive commitment to the region.

US President George Bush announced during the early part of his four-Asian-nation tour beginning on New Year's day an end to the 13-year-old trade embargo on Cambodia.

Anan yesterday also commented on Bush's state of health following his sudden collapse while in Japan, saying there was nothing to worry about as he was informed that the president was now able to go ahead with his normal work schedule.

Bush collapsed on Wednesday at the state banquet during the last leg of his Asian tour to Japan and was said to have suffered from an attack of stomach flu.

Hanoi: Thailand has agreed to provide agricultural know-how to increase Vietnam's productivity in that sector, Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun said yesterday.

He said that it would be the first time Thailand had extended help to Vietnam in this field.

"For instance, we can help Vietnam improve its maize production," he said before returning to Bangkok.

Last October, Thailand offered Bt [baht] 20 million worth of technical assistance to Vietnam.

Wichian was on a one-day visit to Hanoi to finalize the details of Anan's visit here next week.

Daily Weighs Outcome of Suchinda's SRV Visit

BK1001100392 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 10 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Strengthening Ties"]

[Text] Army Chief and Supreme Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun has made a visit to Vietnam. It is left to be seen whether the visit will bear fruit in reducing distrust between Thailand and Vietnam. The Thai Government has made efforts to improve relations as Vietnam continued harboring suspicion toward Thailand. Gen. Suchinda himself made clear he did not fully trust Vietnam when he gave an interview to a foreign correspondent last year.

Exchanges of visits and hospitalities among countries should forge closer relations. Gen. Suchinda's visit to Vietnam should more or less benefit the two countries. Although Vietnam's failure in allowing Gen. Suchinda to visit its naval base at Cam Ranh Bay could be interpreted that Vietnam still had secrets to hide from Thailand, Vietnam made an assurance that it had nothing to hide, but would only prefer that such a visit be made on another occasion.

There has been progress in exchanges during Gen. Suchinda's visit, and this would help strengthen ties between Vietnam and Thailand. Both countries agreed on trading old weapons at friendly prices. Vietnam will sell to Thailand parts of F-5 jets captured from the United States. Thailand will sell Chinese-manufactured tank parts to Vietnam since supplies of Soviet-made tanks for Vietnam are dwindling due to domestic problems in the Soviet Union.

Both countries also agreed to increase exchanges in military affairs. Thailand told Vietnam to send military delegates to watch the Thai-U.S. Cobra Gold military exercise. Vietnam told Thailand that it wanted the exchanges of military attaches to be speeded up. Vietnam also wants to learn from Thailand how to use the military service for economic development of the country. With an end to the cold war, it is therefore hoped that relations between Thailand and Vietnam will improve also and mutual distrust be cleared.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will lead a delegation to visit Vietnam next week. On this occasion, we hope that more progress will be achieved during the visit, especially concerning the fishing issue. We hope to see an end to Vietnam's arrests of Thai fishermen, sending them to hardship, and demanding compensation from Thailand for their freedom. We hope that both countries can reach an agreement on a joint fishing venture, or find a better solution to the problem, without having to resort to arrests of more Thai fishermen and without the need for the Thai Navy's protection of Thai fishing trawlers.

Lao President Kaysone Leaves for Chiang Mai

BK0901144192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] At 1420 today at Chitlada Palace, his majesty the king, Crown Prince Wachiralongkon, and Princess Sirinthon granted an audience to Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife. The LPDR president and his wife bade farewell to the royal family on the occasion of their official visit to Thailand as guests of their majesties the king and queen. After that, his majesty the king proceeded along with LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife, Crown Prince Wachiralongkon, Princess Sirinthon, and Thongsavan Phomvihan, son of the LPDR president, in a royal motorcade to the Air Force Headquarters Airport to see LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife off to Chiang Mai.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and wife; Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin; Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin; Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, commander of the Air Force; and senior officials were in front of the Air Force Headquarters to welcome the royal family and their guests. His majesty the king escorted the LPDR president and his wife to the reception room, where honorable guests bade farewell to the LPDR president and his wife. Then, the LPDR president and wife said good-bye to his majesty the king and the guests.

After that, his majesty the king escorted the LPDR president to the welcoming platform. The guard of honor of the three services paid respect and played the Lao national anthem and the royal anthem. His majesty also accompanied the LPDR president, his wife, and son to the royal plane. Crown Prince Wachiralongkon accompanied the LPDR president to visit Chiang Mai. Before boarding the plane, LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife said good-bye to his majesty the king and Princess Sirinthon.

According to a report from Chiang Mai, the royal plane landed at the Chiang Mai Airport at about 1620. Crown Prince Wachiralongkon escorted the LPDR president, his wife, and son off the plane. They were welcome by the Chiang Mai gvernor, his wife, and a large number of senior officials. During their visit to Chiang Mai, the LPDR president and his wife will visit Huai Hongkhrai Development Research Center and a handicraft center under royal patronage. They will also visit important places of worship. Tonight, the Chiang Mai governor will host a dinner in honor of the LPDR president and his wife.

Visits Buddhist Temples

BK1001074392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report on 10 January activities of Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—recorded]

[Excerpts] This morning in the northern province of Chiang Mai, His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and his wife travelled from the Chiang Mai Orchid Hotel to a Buddhist monastery called Wat Phra Sing Wora Maha Wihan to visit the Wihan Lai Kham Temple and to attend a typical traditional northern-style "bai si su khwan" ceremony [to bring back the guardian spirit of a person] in the main temple of the monastery.

The LPDR president and his wife arrived at Wat Phra Sing slightly after 0900. They were welcomed by Nithasak Ratchaphruet, deputy provincial governor of Chiang Mai, his wife, and a group of government officials. Along both sides of the road as the Lao couple passed by, a number of students waved Thai and Lao miniature national flags as a gesture of welcome.

After visiting the Wihan Lai Kham temple in the compound of Wat Phra Sing monastery, the LPDR president and his wife entered the main temple of the monastery to attend the "bai si su khwan" morale-boosting ceremony. [passage omitted]

Following the ceremony, which lasted about 10 minutes, the visiting Lao couple proceeded to another Buddhist monastery called Wat Photharam Maha Wihan, or locally known as Wat Chet Yot, which is situated on the Chiang Mai superhighway. They were accorded a warm welcome by a number of senior government officials and the people of Chiang Mai.

This afternoon the LPDR president and his wife will visit a study center for a royally-initiated development project at Huai Hong Khlai in Doi Sakhet District, Chiang Mai Province.

Border Patrol Police Seal Off Border With Laos

BK0901152192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Due to the fighting between resistance forces and government troops at Ban Wang Nua, Sanakham District, in Vientiane, 367 Lao civilians crossed into Thailand at Ban Khok Phai, Chiang Khan District, Loei Province, after an attack on a police post and raiding and torching of people's houses in Ban Wang Nua.

In regards to the incident, Police Lieutenant Colonel Prasan Kaeota, deputy commander of the 24th Border Patrol Police Unit in Udon Thani Province, reported that his unit had instructed the 246th Company in Chiang Khan to dispatch a squad to the border area to conduct security patrols and provide food to the Lao civilians. The border there has been automatically sealed off for security reasons and to prevent the influx of more people from Laos. Concerning the situation at Ban Wang Nua, where the fighting broke out, the officer said resistance forces and Lao Government troops were still pitted against each other, with the resistance forces maintaining their stronghold in the village and resorting to psychological warfare—using loudspeakers to persuade government forces to join the democracy movement and rebuild the country.

According to reports by our correspondents, government troops have been reinforced in the area with high-level officers in charge. More operations are anticipated in order to flush out the resistance. Helicopters were flying over the area for observation. According to a latest report on the fighting, the resistance forces yesterday fired a RPG rocket at a ship transporting planks when it was passing Ban Wang Nua. There was no report on losses. The government forces have recaptured the police post from the resistance forces and pushed the rebels from the area. Further mop-up operations are expected.

Army Commander on Fighting in Laos, Chea Sim

BK1001150192 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] General Suchinda Khraprayun, supreme commander, army commander in chief, and vice chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council, said the fighting between resistance forces and government truops in Laos, close to the Thai border in Loei Province, should have no impact on Thailand, and that the 2d Army Region should be able to keep the situation under control. He said the incident took place well inside Laos and had nothing to do with Thailand. Measures would be taken in case there was an intrusion. Gen. Suchinda granted the interview to newsmen at the Air Force Headquarters Airport yesterday when he returned from a visit to Vietnam from 6 to 8 January. He said the fighting remained inside Laos and that Thailand would not get involved since Laos had made no request for help. Besides, Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan is currently in Thailand on a visit.

Asked whether the Lao resistance would make the situation worse, Gen. Suchinda said he thought it was difficult for the Lao resistance to plan something on a big scale since the current government in Laos has been in power for so long and is stable. Besides, Lao leaders are well experienced in waging a war of resistance themselves; they should therefore be able to cope with the problem of the resistance group. Gen. Suchinda did not think the incident would blow up and affect the stability of the Lao Government.

Asked about his meeting with Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian National Assembly, prior to his visit to Vietnam, Gen. Suchinda said he heard from Chea Sim that he was suffering from poor health and a heart problem, and that Chea Sim requested assistance concerning treatment at Phra Mongkutklao Military Hospital, which is known to have experts in cardiology. Gen. Suchinda said he sent a plane to pickup Chea Sim on 1 January. Chea Sim had a medical check-up at the hospital and it was found that his health is quite good, but that he suffered slightly from cardiomegaly. Gen. Suchinda said he told Chea Sim to remain at the hospital for treatment.

Suchinda on Successor, 'Secret' Burma Arms Deal

BK1001010792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] Supreme Commander and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday said he will decide when to relinquish his Army chief post.

"When the time comes you will know about it," he told reporters when asked if he will quit as Army chief and remain only as supreme commander in April.

"It looks as if everyone wants me to quit quickly," he shot back at reporters and hinted that his deputy, Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who is the next in line to succeed him, is entitled to promotion.

He said the post-election transition period will not pose any problem for any change-over in the Army.

Gen Suchinda also dismissed as completely groundless an AFP report that a secret deal between a group of Thai military officers and Burma has been scrapped after details of the plan were accidentally leaked.

He said he had never heard of any Thai military officers engaging in secret arms deal with the military junta in Burma. Burma, he added, has obtained arms from China.

The Army chief also said Singapore's decision to house a command post for the US force is an internal matter that he does not want to meddle with.

"It is no big deal," he said an questioned why Singapore's move should be seen as a big issue. He cited Japan and Germany which both harbour US bases and which both have prospered economically.

Carrying of Firearms in Malay Border Town Banned

BK0801101692 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] Padang Besar, Mon.—Uniformed Thai personnel have from today been banned from carrying firearms when they come here, Sadao District Officer Yongyut Saengchan said today.

The move was to prevent any recurrence of border intrusions by Thai personnel and to maintain good relations with Malaysia, he told a press conference at Pekan Siam on Thai territory near here.

Thai police and enforcement personnel had been directed to obey the ban with immediate effect, he said.

He said the recent intrusions by Thai enforcement personnel into Malaysian territory was unintentional as many Thai rank-and-file personnel were unclear on Malaysia-Thai border demarcations.

He said the bazaar near the border here was in fact in Malaysian territory although the 1922 British-Thai agreement over Malayan territory fixed the Malayan Railway station here as joint territory.

He said to clear up the issue, a meeting would held in Hat Yai tomorrow involving the heads of Thai police, army, immigration and customs as well as the Governors and District Officers of the five Thai southern provinces of Songkhla, Satun, Narathiwat, Yala, and Pattani. He said the meeting, to focus on Thai-Malaysia border administration, would be chaired by Niphon Bunyaphattaro, assistant chief permanent secretary of the Thai Home Affairs Ministry.

He said the meeting would also discuss the validity of the 1922 agreement between Thailand and Britain.

Present at today's Press conference were Sadao police chief Chumphon Sunthondet and the Thai Health Officer here, Dr. Patthayu Phrongsetkon.

Meanwhile in Kangar, Menteri Besar Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh today refused to comment on the willingness of Thai authorities to apologise for the recent spate of intrusions in Padang Besar.

"I refuse to comment... please write that," he said when asked to respond to newspaper reports yesterday which quoted Songkhla Governor Pokkrong Chindaphon as saying that the Thai authorities were prepared to apologise.

Premier Anan, Officials Examine AFTA Proposal

BK0901015492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will push to gain the best possible commitment for the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] proposal, on the grounds that "if ASEAN missed the boat now, they would miss it forever."

The Prime Minister, who strongly advocates the transformation of ASEAN into a free trade zone by the turn of the century, called a meeting among senior officials at Government House yesterday to prepare for the Thai input at the upcoming ASEAN leaders' meeting in Singapore later this month.

At the summit, ASEAN heads of government will sign two crucial pacts—the framework agreement for economic cooperation which features the AFTA, and an agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT).

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin is confident that the AFTA issue will be taken up wholeheartedly.

"ASEAN leaders realise that the group needs to be instilled with more substance. Political cooperation has always been our mainstay, and we will continue our political dialogue. But reality in the world dictates that it is high time we decide on this (economic cooperation)," Mr Asa said.

Director-General of the ASEAN Department Luckanachanthon Laohaphan said economic cooperation will reign supreme at the summit, as global changes have prompted ASEAN to review and adjust their framework of cooperation both internally and externally.

Regarding the framework agreement on economic cooperation whereby AFTA is the thrust, it will be endorsed by the ASEAN heads of governments while the CEPT pact will be signed by economic ministers, Ms Luckanachanthon said.

CEPT, which will seek to reduce tariffs by sectors, will be an instrument leading to the goal of the free trade area.

In addition, the ASEAN leaders will discuss Malaysia's controversial proposal for an East Asian Economic Caucus, and the so-called Growth Triangle arrangements within ASEAN which will complement intra-cooperation.

The ASEAN leaders will review political and security issues in light of the series of change on the international scene, and they will exchange views on relations with other members of Southeast Asia.

The leaders are expected to endorse the membership of Laos and Vietnam to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, which is the broad framework for peace and security.

Another issue on the agenda is the appointment of an ASEAN Secretary-General who will be given wide powers to efficiently carry out the work of ASEAN.

This new appointment will replace the largely bureaucratic post of the Secretary-General to the ASEAN Secretariat. Also in store are efforts to make a major overhaul of the ASEAN mechanism.

The summit will also touch upon cooperation on environment, education, public health and the role of non-governmental organisations in social development.

Editorial Champions Election Watchdog Committee

BK0901022092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial: "The poll watchdog group deserves public support"]

[Text] Ideally, there should be an independent public body to monitor national elections on a permanent basis. Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan, when he headed the committee drafting the new constitution, advocated a constitution committee to do the job. But the entire section on the constitution committee was deleted in a subsequent review of the draft constitution because the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] didn't want such an independent body, especially when it would also have a major role in the selection of senators.

The election watchdog group, whose formation was approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, is thus a consolation prize to those in the pro-democracy movement who have been campaigning for a cleaner general election and more active political participation by the public.

The group lacks legal power and must disband after the election; worse still, the Interior Ministry openly frowns on it. Yet it has the strong backing of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and will get Bt [bhat] 25 million from the government for a nationwide observation of election campaigning and polling. University Affairs Minister Kasem Suwannakun has agreed to head the group which comprises well-known academics and representatives from the Reporters Association, the Law Council, the Medical Council, the Students Federation and labour unions. Former Supreme Commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon and former Education Minister Khunying Amphon Misuk have been appointed deputies of Dr Kasem in this challenging operation. Dr Kothom Ariya, who has been very active in the pro-democracy movement, will be the group's secretary-general.

The concern of the Interior Ministry that the group's activities could interfere with the work of election authorities on the polling day, Mar 22, is vastly exaggerated. The group and its representatives are merely authorized to enter a polling station to observe, but not to supervise election authorities. But their presence would certainly make it more difficult for unscrupulous authorities to cheat in favour of certain candidates. In the past, officials manning remote polling stations would stuff ballot boxes with votes for candidates who had bribed them. Such blalant fraud would not be possible if the watchdog group can assign reliable observers to every polling station.

The Interior Ministry may be afraid that the watchdog group will expose the shortcomings of local officials, including kamnan (elected community leaders) and phuyai baan (elected village heads) who are traditionally the most potent vote canvassers. If this is really the case, then the Interior Ministry should get its act together and try to be impartial in the next election for a change. After all, the incumbent government administration is not contesting in the election; there are no government coalition parties to force local officials to favour their candidates over those from the opposition.

However, Gen Itsaraphong Nunpakdi's credibility, in his capacities as the interior minister and the secretary-general to the NPKC as well as deputy army chief, is at stake. A smooth, free and fair election would certainly bring him a great deal of political credit. He should, therefore, welcome the formation of Dr Kasem's watchdog group and assist it in every way, especially in protecting the group and its representatives when they are operating in remote areas.

The group will report directly to Premier Anan and recommend him to take immediate action whenever necessary. Its more formidable potential is in its ability to expose wrongdoings of election authorities and draw public attention to candidates who violate the election laws.

Both Premier Anan and Dr Kasem have correctly cautioned against unrealistic public expectations. The group has no magic wand to help clean up the electoral process. But the group can claim success if its presence can deter election authorities and local officials from cheating. Without official connivance, unscrupulous politicians who want to buy their way into power would have to come up with some more innovative ploys to beat their rivals. They had better be more careful this time because, as a result of the new improved election law, a loser can sue any particular winner in the same constituency for election fraud and ask the court to call for a by-election.

In order to succeed, the watchdog group must gain public acceptance and trust by explaining why it is imperative that we have a free and fair election. The group needs the cooperation of people everywhere in this unprecedented, but necessary, poll-watching operation. And it deserves the full support of all of us.

A successful operation of this group will set an example for the new government, and perhaps give it reason to seriously consider institutionalizing such an independent public body for future poll watching.

Vietnam

Foreign Ministry Denies Allegations on POW's

BK0901150592 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.9—Former Soviet General O. Kalugin's story about KGB agents' interviews with several American POW's in Vietnam after the Paris agreement was signed in 1973 is a sheer fabrication worthy to be blamed by the public, said a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry in an interview here today with VNA. The spokesman said: "Kalugin's statements are full of contradictions. Once he said the interviews were conducted in 1978, the other he said in 1976. Nechiporenko, a former KGB agent who Kalugin said to have conducted the questioning and told Kalugin about the story, also denied Kalugin's allegations.

"CIA experts also held that Kalugin's statements were groudless. "Vietnam is ready to allow Kalugin in company with American officials to go to Vietnam to make the matter clear.

"Those who, for their own interests, made these allegations indifferent to the grief of American MIA families, will be fully responsible for what they have done" the spokesman declared.

UK Minister Asks More Aid for Boat People Issue

BK0901160692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hang Gai, Vietnam, Jan 9 (AFP)—Vietnam's economy needs more international aid to solve the boat people problem, British Foreign Office Minister Lord Caithness said Thursday while visiting a northern province where thousands started the trip to Hong Kong.

A lifting of the U.S. embargo on trade and World Bank loans to Vietnam would also make a "world of difference," though they are "not a panacea" for the country's economic ills, he said.

Caithness, who arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday at the start of a four-nation Southeast Asian tour, travelled to Quang Ninh Province to talk with returned boat people and visit a British-funded development project.

The scenic but poor coastal province bordering China has been a leading departure point for the 60,000 Vietnamese clogging camps in the British colony of Hong Kong, only 4,400 of whom have been classified as genuine refugees.

Caithness said he was discussing the "technicalities" of deporting the others back to Vietnam as illegal migrants, following a British-Vietnamese agreement in October that all non-refugees would be repatriated.

Hong Kong sent 87 back involuntarily on two flights in November and December, all of them boat people who have made the trip twice or new arrivals.

Vietnamese officials have asked Caithness for more financial aid to create jobs if larger numbers of boat people are to return. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam specifically suggested that Hong Kong could contribute.

"The key to solving this problem has always been to solve the economic problems in Vietnam," Caithness said. "This needs international assistance."

The European Community (EC) last year launched a 45 million dollar program aimed at creating jobs for returned boat people as well as those who stay at home.

Britain, which takes over the EC presidency later this year, wants to see funding increased to 114 million dollars over three years, Caithness said. Britain has so far contributed 13 million dollars.

Caithness spoke to four boat people who had returned to Quang Ninh from Hong Kong, including 32-year-old cabinetmaker Nguyen Van Hung, who said he set sail in 1989.

"I hoped I could get a carpentry job in Hong Kong but I was confined in a camp. I saw a lot of fighting there among Vietnamese. I was refused third-country asylum and I realized there was no future, so I came back" in April 1990, he said.

It was a profitable decision. In addition to 300 dollars from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) as an incentive to return home, he last year obtained an EC loan to expand his business.

"The first 13 months were hard because I had to start my life over," Hung said, but now he can be seen making furniture in the courtyard of his newly-built house, sharing about 200 dollars a month in profits with five colleagues—a good wage in Vietnam.

Caithness met one man who had made the trip to Hong Kong twice, but provincial officials did not introduce the Briton to any of the 87 involuntary returnees.

British Embassy officials, however, said they have visited all but one of the 87—a man who was jailed after his return for stealing public property.

"I have absolutely no evidence, the ambassador has no evidence, the UNHCR has no evidence" that any returned boat people have been persecuted by Vietnamese authorities, Caithness said.

Boat people who can show during a U.N.-supervised screening process that they fled Vietnam out of genuine fear of persecution for their political or religious beliefs qualify for resettlement in the West. The others now have the choice of volunteering to return home under a UNHCR program or being deported.

The UNHCR halted its incentive payments for voluntary returnees in September after finding that thousands were making the round-trip just for the cash. The move has helped slow the exodus of boat people to a trickle, while the voluntary returns continue to grow.

Caithness is to visit Cambodia starting Sunday followed by Thailand and Laos.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Algerian Envoy

BK0901154992 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 9—Vietnam and Algeria can broaden cooperation in many fields, said Premier Vo Van Kiet in his reception here this afternoon of the Algerian Ambassador L. Mohamed.

The premier thanked the Algerian Government and people for their spiritual and material assistance to Vietnam in the past as well as at present, especially for Algeria's agreement on Vietnam's postponement of debt payments. He said that the Vietnamese Government will try its best to further develop the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and Algeria to meet the aspirations of the two people, on the bases of equality, mutual benefits, and respect of each other's sovereignty.

For his part, the Algerian ambassador said Vietnam's assistance to and cooperation with Algeria is of important significance to its revolutionary cause. He said Algeria is studying projects on bilateral cooperation, especially in mining.

Doan Khue Receives Indonesian General

BK0901100692 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] On the evening of 10 December 1991, General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and minister of national defense, received the delegation of the Indonesian Department of Defense and Security led by Lieutenant General Teddy Rusdy, assistant commander in chief of Indonesian Armed Forces. The delegation was paying a working visit to the National Defense and Economy Department of the Vietnam People's Army.

Lt. Gen. Teddy Rusdy conveyed the regards of the Indonesian president and Indonesian minister of defense and security to General Doan Khue and he also expressed his wish for further understanding and cooperation between the armies of the two countries.

Speaking to the delegation, Gen. Doan Khue considered its Vietnam working visit a new step of progress in the relations of the two countries' armies and peoples and he wished that the delegation's visit to the National Defense and Economy Department would score many fine results.

Thai Delegation Reviews 'Cooperative' Relations

BK0901152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.9—A delegation of the Thai Government led by Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun was here from Jan 8-9 in preparation for Thai prime minister's coming visit to Vietnam.

While here the Thai delegation was received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam it had working sessions with the ministries of Foreign Affair, Commerce and Tourism, Aquatic Products, Agriculture and Food Industry, Heavy Industry, and Culture, Information and Sports, and other economic branches.

The two sides reviewed the cooperative relations between the two countries in the past time, compared notes on the orientation of their cooperation in the future, and checked the preparations for the Thai prime minister's coming visit.

VNA Reports French Assembly Delegation's Visit

BK1001065192 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—A delegation of the commission for external relations of the French National Assembly led by its chairman Michel Vauzelle, arrived here on Jan. 9 for a visit to Vietnam.

The delegation was welcomed at the government guest house by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the Commission for External Relations.

French Ambassador Claude Blanchemaison was also present.

Mr Michel Vauzelle and his party will inquire into the renovation of the Vietnamese parliamentary work and discuss measures aimed at strengthening the cooperative relations between the two National Assemblies.

Tran Duc Luong Addresses Southeast Asia Meeting

BK0901160592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] On 16 and 17 December in Hanoi, the State Planning Commission coordinated with the UNDP [UN Development Program] in organizing a meeting on cooperation among the countries of Southeast Asia.

Attending the meeting were Comrade Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; representatives of the SRV Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Planning Commission, and the State Science Commission; representatives of the Cambodian SNC [Supreme National Council], Laos, and Thailand; and representatives of the Provisional Mekong River Committee.

The meeting was held to discuss issues of most concern to the region's countries in the fields of economics, science, technology, and social culture. The meeting also outlined programs to solve practical problems of every country in the region and to promote cooperation among the countries.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the meeting, Comrade Tran Duc Luong emphasized that the consolidation and broadening of the multifaceted cooperation between the four countries in Southeast Asia are in line with the policies of each country and the aspirations of their people. The Vietnamese Government always treasures good friendship and neighborly relations with other countries in the region. Through international cooperation, Vietnam hopes that it can establish close economic linkage with other countries in order to complete its national development and improve its people's living standards.

Vo Chi Cong Discusses New Constitution

Part 1

BK0901113592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Jan 92

["First part" of article by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Committee for Constitutional Amendments: "Let's Make Amendments to the Constitution and Continue To Firmly Implement the National Comprehensive Renovation Undertaking"]

[Text] I. Implementing the National Assembly's decision, the draft amendments to the Constitution have been extensively disseminated among the people for discussion and for soliciting their ideas. Since its establishment on 30 June 1989—two and a half years ago—the Committee for Constitutional Amendments has held 15 meetings and worked urgently to produce three drafts of amendments to the Constitution. The Committee submitted a revised draft amendments to the Constitution to the National Assembly at its ninth session in July 1991 after soliciting ideas from high- and middle-ranking cadres from throughout the country in May the same year. Recently, the Committee submitted the draft amendments to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee's second plenum. The plenum examined and adopted fundamental concepts and orientations of the draft amendments to the Constitution which are aimed at further reforming the state apparatus.

The campaign to solicit ideas from the people this time will be carried out extensively throughout the country in order to let various people's strata participate in discussing and contributing ideas aimed at supplementing the draft amendments to the Constitution before submission to the National Assembly for debate and approval.

In our society, the drafting of the constitution—the fundamental law of the state—requires not only the efforts of state agencies of authority, but also the positive contribution of the people and citizens in society. Discussion on the draft amendments to the Constitution in January and February this year will be not only an important political activity for each citizen that will directly contribute his ideas to the the formation of the Constitution, but will also be an opportunity for each member of the Vietnamese community to share his responsibility in an important national issue; as a result, this will enhance the citizen's awareness of the cause of national construction and defense and the implementation of the comprehensive renovation based on socialist orientations—which, given the present complex situation at home and abroad, is particularly important.

II. The current constitution—the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which was adopted by the Sixth National Assembly in 1980 and is abbreviated as the 1980 Constitution—has institutionalized the socialist revolutionary lines set by the Fourth CPV Congress in December 1976. Coming into being five years after the total independence and unification of the country, which was imbued with the epochal victory, the 1980 Constitution noted the achievements of the people's protracted revolutionary struggle to liberate the nation and to build and consolidate the people's administration based on the traditional concept of a socialist model.

After more than 10 years of implementing the 1980 Constitution, our people have achieved great results and have step by step restored the economy, overcome the heavy consequences of the war, built new production relations, established socialist material-technical bases, and set up the people's administration in localities throughout the country. However, during the process of implementation, it was found that some stipulations of the 1980 Constitution, especially those of the economic system, were not consistent with the law on production relations and the capability and nature of the production force. As a result, this created such phenomena as subjectivism, simplism, and voluntarism in the process to the transition period toward socialism, especially in the country where small-scale production is still prevalent because it has just emerged from the protracted war and is still poor and backward. Articles of the Constitution have also directly and indirectly specified the economic structure and the socioeconomic management mechanism based on the model of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies. For this reason, we were unable to release all production forces and develop all the potential of society. Moreover, during the 1980's, our nation was hit hard by a prolonged socioeconomic crisis.

The necessity for amending some articles of the 1980 Constitution has been brought about relatively rapidly. It is necessary, however, to say that, under the beacon of renovating all aspects of social life set by the Sixth CPV Congress in December 1986, the need for a fundamental amendment to the Constitution is essential and urgent.

The Eighth National Assembly, 1987-92, on two occasions, issued resolutions on amending and supplementing the 1980 Constitution. The first resolution effected an amendment to the preamble; the second one amended seven articles related to the election system and the organization of local administration. The National Assembly has also issued a resolution on establishing the Committee for Constitutional Amendments, which is to carry out a fundamental amendment to the constitution in order to meet the requirements of the new revolutionary stage.

The line of comprehensive renovation has actually opened a revolutionary turning point in the social development of our country. Normally, when a society shifts to a new developmental stage implying a revolutionary content, the question of promulgating and revising the constitution must be raised. Due to the characteristics of the present change, this constitutional task is manifested by the demand for a revision of the current constitution. The revision does not contradict but is in complete conformity with the requirements that are raised objectively before the society.

Our National Assembly has decided to revise and not to promulgate a new constitution to replace the 1980 one because, although the new stage of development is characterized as a turning point, the developmental orientation of our society has become a constitutionalized institution under basic law, and the transition of the entire country to socialism remains unchanged. The continuity and successiveness of the Vietnamese constitutions, particularly between the 1980 Constitution and the amended one, must be respected and thoroughly understood.

The real issues raised in the revision of the constitution this time are to determine the goals, steps, and basic measures that will build the material and technical bases, renew the structures and mechanism of socioeconomic management, revise the organizational forms and procedures for implementing the set tasks, ensure respect for and scrupulous compliance with the objective laws, and carry out an important step in reforming the state machinery—the main tool which implements and guarantees the people's power. The results and real effectiveness of operational activities in social management conform with the renovated knowledge that the period of transition to socialism in a country that has bypassed the stage of capitalist development, like our country, is a relatively long, historical course that must go through many appropriate stages and steps.

The basic difference between the 1980 Constitution and the amended one lies in the fact that the amended constitution will be a major adjustment of many regulations and systems of the 1980 Constitution. If the 1980 Constitution was officially determined in the preamble as the one for the period of transition countrywide to socialism—which, according to the then viewpoint, would last about a few decades—then the amended constitution will be the one for the first stage of the period of transition to socialism in our country. It corresponds with the platform for national construction and the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000, which were recently approved at the Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Moreover, in our society, the current step of revolutionary change is very new. We can see more clearly every day that our society is shifting to socialism in a unique way. The path that we will follow cannot be copied from any ready model. There certainly must be time and demands, transitional steps, measures and procedures, and real research and experiments to allow us to abandon the old model—already too familiar—in order to shift to a rather new model.

A binding fact is that the new can come into being only when it has adequate premises for it to emerge. As a result, the guidelines for carrying out the renovation process in general, and for revising the constitution this time, must be comprehensive, positive, and dynamic, yet careful, with steady but not hasty or impatient steps. Evidently, the scope for the revision the constitution in line with the National Assembly resolution, as specified above, be cannot therefore restricted. The question raised is that the constitution must be revised basically and comprehensively, and be aimed at meeting the requirements of the new revolutionary stage.

In light of the renovation lines and achievements and what has been done either satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily, or what has not yet been done over the past five years, we must reexamine and scrutinize again the 1980 Constitution both in breadth and depth. We must not stop at the chapters, articles, and regulations of the constitution. The basic points are to determine the basic systems of the constitution—from the political and socioeconomic systems to the basic rights and duties of citizens—the organization and structure of the state machinery, of which the most basic point is the definition of independence and power of citizens, and the mechanism to implement and ensure the real results and effectiveness of those systems in the management and operational control of the country's affairs, and to guarantee the development of society—a society by the people and for the people.

III. Based on the guiding thought of the National Assembly's resolution and on the basis of succeeding and ensuring the continuation of the Vietnamese legal system, the draft amendments to the Constitution have included the following fundamental points:

1. Asserting the socialist objectives formulated by President Ho Chi Minh, our party, and people through application of Marxist-Leninist principles to the real conditions of Vietnam. These objectives have been adjusted under the beacon of the renovative concept to suit the initial stage of the transition period, thus applying a consistent renovation—one that began five years ago—to all aspects of social life, especially the renovation of the political-economic domain based on socialist orientations.

2. Firmly grasping President Ho Chi Minh's concept of transfering administrative power to the people and serving their interests. This is the fundamental issue determing the completion of the constitution. The draft amendments to the Constitution affirm the nature of our state as that of the people, by the people, and for the people with the worker-peasant-intellectual alliance acting as a core force in adjusting forms, measures, and methods aimed at carrying out tasks in the initial stage of the transition period. The draft amendments to the Constitution also assert that all power belongs to the people. The people exercise state power through their representatives—deputies of the National Assembly and the People's Councils. According to principles, state power is uniformly vested with the National Assembly, with a clear division of authority to concerned agencies so that they can exercise legislative, executive, and judicial power. Considering the essence of these three branches of power as asserted by Marx and Engels, we can see that it is an effective division of authority and a uniform method for the people to exercise state power. Through this system, each agency has its authority, function, and duty which ensure that the people's power is exercised for their true interests.

3. The draft amendments to the Constitution institutionalize the citizen's rights to democracy and freedom, thus symbolizing the people's position of mastery in society. A segment of the draft amendment asserts a fundamental socialist democratic system in which human rights are ensured and the citizen's role is promoted. While institutionalizing these issues into fundamental principles to guide and supervise citizens in our society, the draft amendment asserts that the rights of citizens are inseparable from their obligations. The citizen's rights to democracy and freedom are protected on the basis of ensuring social order and discipline, actively preventing and opposing such phenomena as abuse of authority, bureaucratism, disorganization, anarchy, and belittlement of the law.

4. The draft amendments to the Constitution affirm the institutionalization of the CPV leadership role. In the present world situation, efforts to continue institutionalizing the party leadership position in the fundamental law of the state is very important and essential. The CPV leadership over the state and its role and position in society is an historical inevitability demanded by the society in the protracted national socialist struggle, which is full of ordeals. The party leadership has been and is still a firm guarantee for social stability, progress, and development along the socialist path. It ensures the development and enhancement of the state apparatus' effectiveness in managing and executing state affairs. The significance in institutionalizing the party leadership role is to realize and renovate its position to ensure that it can fulfill the historic mission of a ruling party. It is also necessary to strive to overcome the prolonged shortcomings and the phenomena of party echelons doing the work of the administration, thus leading to usurpation of power and occasional arbitrariness. The most important thing is to clearly define the function of party organizations and that of the state apparatuses.

As a leading party in society, the CPV cannot overlook the work of the administration. Party organizations must regularly pay attention to activities of the administration and state as well as the organization and efficacy of state apparatus. Party members and those entrusted by the party must directly hold essential positions in the state apparatus. Without this practice the party is not a ruling one and is considered an outsider of the administration or the party, participating in the administration with a weak role. This is an issue that must be clearly understood. Nevertheless, we must not confuse the function of party organizations and that of state apparatuses. Party organizations are set up in accordance with the principles set by the party statutes, while state apparatuses are organized to carry out tasks and duties stipulated by the constitution and law. Party organizations do not resolve tasks under the responsibility of the administration. Party members working in state apparatuses must carry out their work and duties in accordance with their function and authority as prescribed by the law, and must fulfill their responsibility as personnel of the state. Thus far, not a small number of party members in various echelons—due to the lack of a clear understanding on this issue—have regretably carried out their daily work in a confusing manner, thus affecting the relations between party organizations and state apparatuses.

Last Part

BK0901141792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Jan 92

["Remaining part" of article by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Committee for Constitutional Amendments: "Let's Make Amendments to the Constitution and Continue To Firmly Implement the National Comprehensive Renovation Undertaking"]

[Text] IV. The birth of the various Vietnamese Constitutions is the institutionalization of the revolutionary lines chartered by the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] based on the most effective legal documents to meet the requirements and reflect the characteristics of each development stage.

For the institutionalization of the CPV's renovative lines to be carried out at an early date based on the constitutional provisions and as a manifestation of that renovative spirit, the draft constitutional amendments this time have been made at the same time with the formulation of major documents of the CPV like the draft platform for national construction during the period of transition to socialism and the draft strategy on socioeconomic stablization and development till the year 2000.

These draft constitutional amendments are based on the wisdom, knowledge, and experiences of the entire party and society already used to formulate those major documents of the ruling party. Once they are ratified, those documents will become the official, direct backbone of the constitutional amendments. The lines, standpoints, and major national policies outlined in the various party documents become the starting point of the draft constitutional amendments which, in turn, will institutionalize and constitutionalize those party lines, standpoints, and national policies to turn them into a body of state documents and regulations having the highest legal effect on society as a whole.

The relationship and agreement between party and state documents has been therefore established all along and very steadily. The draft revised constitution which has been made public for the people's views is officially named Draft Three by the constitution amendment committee. Although its form remains unchanged in terms of arrangement and number of chapters and articles of the 1980 constitution—which include a preamble, 12 chapters and 147 articles—its contents have undergone major adjustments in keeping with the requirements set by the national assembly resolution in which more than two thirds of articles have been amended and many new articles been added, with only a few articles of the 1980 constitution kept unchanged.

The contents of main amendments and addenda to the draft revised constitution, as compared to the current constitution, can be divided into two obvious parts:

1. The preamble and first five chapters have been revised. Just like the 1980 constitution, the draft revised constitution still has a preamble, but this preamble has been much curtailed to keep only some major milestones in the national history—especially the contemporary one since the party's birth and the time under President Ho Chi Minh's leadership—which opened a new era in the national history and recognized the renovation line of the leading party. The first five chapters of the current constitution are: the political system; the economic system; the culture, education, and technology; the defense of the socialist fatherland; and the basic rights and obligations of citizens.

Considering the contents and characteristics of the regulations with more than 80 articles, the constitution has institutionalized by its various regulations the revolutionary lines in the period of transition to socialism.

The contents of the first five chapters of the draft revised constitution recognize and reassert many correct regulations of the 1980 constitution which, though still relevant to the new situation, should be amended to better suit the requirements of expanding interchange and diversifying present relations. These regulations assert that our state is the state of the people, by the people, and for the people; implements and guarantees the people's democratic rights; severely punishes all acts of violation against the interests of the homeland and the people; recognizes the party's leadership role; and clarifies its intentions. The party faithfully represents the interests of the working class, the laboring people, and the nation. Together with Marxism-Leninism, they assert Ho Chi Minh thought as the ideological base of the party and specify that all party members and organizations operate within the framework of the constitution and law. They determine the role of the front and the trade union, and assert the principle that our state administers the society by law, constantly strengthens the socialist legal system, and implements the foreign policy of peace and expanded international interchange and cooperation. They assert the cultural, literary, artistic, educational, scientific and technological development policies, and the line of defending the socialist homeland, and stipulate the basic rights and obligations of citizens.

At the same time, the most obvious and major amendments to the draft revised constitution are in the chapter on the economic system. This chapter in the 1980 constitution covers 22 articles. The same chapter in the draft revised constitution is rewritten almost completely. There are only 15 articles left to assert that our state develops the multisectorial economy of commodities according to the market mechanism placed under state management control and along the socialist orientation. They detail the long lasting multisectorial economic structure, based on the systems of all-people, collective, and private ownership, in which the all-people and collective ownership systems serve as a base.

The purposes of our state's economic policy are to ever better meet the material and moral demands of the people on the strength of liberating all production capabilities, develop the latent potential of all state-run, collective, individual, private capitalist, and state capitalist economic sectors under many forms; promote the construction of material and technical bases, and expand economic, scientific, and technological cooperation and interchange with the international market.

Major amendments and addenda have been made to the draft revised constitution. They recognize that individual organizations can get state-allocated land for long-term use and are authorized to inherit and transfer the using right as stipulated by law. Individual organizations have the right to establish business enterprises without any restrictions in terms of scale and area of operation. They can engage in joint businesses either with state-run economic and business organizations under many forms or with foreign individuals and economic organizations as stipulated by law.

The state guarantees legal rights to ownership over the funds, properties, and other interests of foreign individual organizations. Those enterprises with foreign investment will not be nationalized.

2. Five chapters on the organization of the state machinery have been amended. Unlike the first chapters of the draft revised constitution, the chapters on the organization of the machinery provide only very general guidance for renovating the state machinery mentioned in the various party documents. However, this details a fundamental scope of the constitution. Looking back in history, we can see that in the 1946, 1959, and 1980 constitutions, the structural organization of our state machinery from the central down to grassroots levels has been regulated in a rather perfect manner. Through various stages, this machinery has effectively fulfilled the requirements and tasks of national construction and defense.

Yet, in the operating process, this machinery has manifested a lack of effectiveness due to the mechanism of bureaucratic centralism. It has proved to be cumbersome and heavy, with many echelons and grades. The people-elected agencies prove to be formalistic, lack real power, and the effectiveness of their operating apparatus is poor. Bureaucracy and authoritarianism, together with corruption and waste, violate the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, whereas disorganization and indiscipline still prevail in the state machinery.

The sixth party congress in December 1986 advocated a major reform in the organization of the machinery. However, that correct policy of urgent, epochal significance has not been implemented broadly. The task set for the current revision of the constitution is to search for and detect the various organizational models to realize the people's power effectively on both large and small scales. From the systems for the head of state, the organization and operation of the National Assembly, and the operating procedures of executive agencies, to the networks of administrative units, all are aimed at from the organizational standpoint and regulated in order to achieve a step further in the reform of the state machinery. Being able to renovate and determine a structure of the state machinery can allow us to function adquately and ensure smoothness in running the country's affairs.

The basic issue of decisive significance to the implementation of our state's current historical task is to establish by all means discipline and order on the strength of correctly implementing the principle of democratic centralization.

To speak of the state is to speak of discipline. Without discipline, the state would no longer exist. It is imperative to build a mechanism and establish a system of strict state discipline so that every state employee no matter in what position or rank, once assigned, may not act differently and must abide by the state law. The draft revised constitution follows this line.

As for the National Assembly, the draft revised Constitution keeps the regulations of the 1980 Constitution as far as the position and function of the National Assembly are concerned. The spirit of this revision is to continually enhance the position of this supreme organ of state power, create adequate conditions for the National Assembly to operate effectively with real power, resolutely overcome formalism and step by step shift its operations to regular and full-time activities.

The structure of National Assembly deputies should be renovated for better rationality and the qualifications of deputies must be enhanced in terms of quality and ability so that deputies can work commensurately with the noble title of the people's delegates. Although the State Council still has some restrictions after 10 years of operation, it has basically fulfilled the tasks assigned by the National Assembly, has achieved many works, and has contributed considerably to enhancing step by step the role and effectiveness of the National Assembly.

As an agency organized and operating according to the collective and conferential principle, the State Council decides all important issues of its jurisdiction as assigned by the National Assembly and debates them collectively to ensure accuracy, reliability, and consistency.

Under the current real and complex political and social conditions, these peculiarities in the organization and operation of the State Council should be brought into play. Compared to the current Constitution, the regulations of the State Council have been adjusted: The entire collective of the State Council functions as a permanent agency of the National Assembly. As for the function, authority and duties of the head of state, they are assumed by the State Council chairman. This renovation clearly defines the function of the National Assembly's standing agency and the function of the head of state but always links the head of state to the National Assembly's standing agency because the State Council chairman is the top leader of the State Council.

As for the Council of Ministers, the guideline for renovation is to intensify the effectiveness of unified operational control and to replace various organizations of the Council of Ministers with a government that operates on the basis of combining the collectivized government role with the role of the prime minister and of defining the works to be decided by the government and those to be decided personally by the prime minister.

To define the supervisory functions of the National Assembly and the State Council as an executive agency of the government and to avoid the present situation in which nearly all members of the Council of Ministers are National Assembly deputies, the draft revised Constitution stipulates: Besides the prime minister, other members of the government must not necessarily be National Assembly deputies. Members of the Council of Ministers will be concurrently National Assembly deputies only in case of real necessity.

To enhance the effectiveness of centralized operational control by the prime minister and the government, the draft also stipulates that the prime minister appoints the government members and recommends them for National Assembly ratification. He appoints, dismisses, and transfers chairmen of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government as proposed by the people's councils of the same levels. He appoints the vice chairmen and members of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government as recommended by the chairmen of the administrative committees of the same levels.

The organization of local administration at all levels is a very great issue. Since the people's councils and the people's committees were recently elected in accordance with the 1989 law on the organization of the people's councils and committees, the general guideline is that from now until the end of the office terms of the current people's councils, these agencies will continue to operate according to the 1989 law. However, the draft revised Constitution still provides some regulations to renew the organization and operation of the local administration at all levels in the direction of achieving another necessary step of reform.

Proceeding from the viewpoint that the state is unique and its authority is unified, there cannot be central and local states. The draft revised constitution carries an adjustment asserting that the people's councils at all levels are delegated agencies of the local people to represent the will, aspiration, and right to mastery of the local people but does not stipulate that the people's councils are state power agencies in localities as previously specified in the 1980 constitution.

The people's committees are changed into the administrative committees to clarify the function of state administrative management of these agencies. The people's councils and the administrative committees at all levels are placed under the guidance control of higher administration agencies and must comply with all decisions of the central administration.

The local administration at all levels can be assigned decentralized management authority and may independently take initiative in taking measures to exercise their duty and authority but are absolutely forbidden to casually establish regulations at variance with law and decisions of higher authorities.

Concerning the organization of the people's court and the people's organ of control, there are also some amendments and addenda along the line of renovation which aim to promote the role and effect of these agencies in their specialized duties to defend law, strengthen the socialist legal system, protect the interests of the state, organizations and agencies, and the rights and legitimate interests and human rights of citizens.

A system of judicial appointments will be established to replace the current one. The official term of judges will also be prolonged to create stable conditions for judges to be independent in their adjudication.

Faced with the requirements of the renovation process, the question of establishing specialized courts such as the economic, trade, and administrative courts is also raised but the law on the organization of courts will be settled specifically later.

With respect to the organ of control, its general control and economic functions remain unchanged but the scope of general control should be determined more closely to avoid duplicating the function of the state inspection and specialized inspection agencies. The control of compliance with law by various ministries and other agencies of the government, the local administration at all levels and all sectors in publishing judiciary documents must be intensified. This is a very fundamental task to ensure unification of the legal system which requires that the organ of control at all levels be strengthened and institutionalized into regulations of the revised constitution and of the law on the organization of the control organ.

In order to accomplish good results in soliciting the views of the people, all sectors, and echelons on building the revised constitution, the constitution amendment committee has established a plan for collecting the people's views and has broadly disseminated it to all sectors and echelons.

The country's process of comprehensive renovation must be accelerated even more vigorously and implemented steadily. We are firmly convinced that our people countrywide, including the community of overseas Vietnamese residents, will bring into play their patriotism, wishing their country to become promptly prosperous and strong, and will enthusiastically contribute many ideas to practically build the people's administration and to advance the renovation process.

Son La Province Exported Black Tea in 1991

BK1001065992 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—Last year, the northern mountain province of Son La bordering Laos exported

200 tons of black tea. It plans to raise the figure to 300 tons in 1992 and 2,000 tons in 1995.

To this end, the province has installed two new processing lines, one at the To Hieu farm and the other in the Chieng On farm. Moc Chau, Yen Chau, and Mai Chau, the three tea-growing districts, are planned to have 3,000 hectares under tea by 1995, 900 ha more than in 1991. Productivity is expected to rise from 2.5 tons/ha in 1991 to 4.5 tons/hectare in 1995.

Fiji

Commission Postpones General Elections Until May

BK1001044692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0419 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Suva, Jan 10, (AFP)—Fiji's first post-coup general election, scheduled for March, is now likely to be held in May, the Electoral Commission announced Friday.

Commission Chairman Qoriniasi Bale told reporters the decision was based solely on administrative delays, mainly arising from the compilation of provisional electoral rolls.

Bale said the March schedule had been based on the hope that work on the compilation of the rolls would be completed by early December and that it would not be hampered by hiccups. "These hiccups have indeed occurred, and in combination with the effect of the Christmas season had so far led to a delay of about six weeks," he said.

The Commission had last year announced a probable July election, but this was revised to May and recently to March as the Elections Office tried to meet a constitutional deadline.

Bale said the commission would request President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau to amend a decree which would the polls to be delayed four months, requiring they be held before June 25. "According to present estimates, May appears the likely month," Bale said.

New Zealand

Government 'Reassured' by Indonesian Timor Report

BK1001004492 Hong Kong AFP in English 2256 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Wellington, Jan 10 (AFP)—The New Zealand Government said Friday it was reassured by Indonesia's report criticising its military for the killing of civilians in East Timor.

Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement he was also reassured by the response of President Suharto, who had expressed regret over the November 12 shooting, ordered the removal of two leading commanders and ordered a review of Indonesian policy in East Timor. The Indonesian Government report said the military had clearly over-reacted.

However, McKinnon said the New Zealand Government was concerned about the fate of 90 people unaccounted for in the shooting, in which New Zealand student Kamal Bamadhaj, 20, died. There was also no indication yet of what action would be taken against the soldiers involved.

The preliminary report, prepared by a commission of inquiry, found that 50 people died in the shootings near a cemetary in Dili. McKinnon said the report did not shed any further light on Mr Bamadhaj's death.

"The embassy in Jakarta will continue efforts to find out more about the circumstances surrounding his tragic death," he said, adding however he was satisfied with the way the Indonesian Government was taking action. "It may be helpful however for an appropriate senior United Nations official to visit Jakarta to discuss the Dili tragedy. I would support moves to that end," the minister added.

Aid group Oxfam has said aspects of the report were flawed because the commission did not hear evidence of foreign witnesses to the massacre.

Papua New Guinea

BRA Members in North Ready To 'Lay Down' Arms

BK1001063592 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] In Papua New Guinea [PNG], a large faction of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army has indicated it will lay down its arms in order to restore government services to the war-torn island. (Michael Troy) reports the move is raising hope of an end to the three-year conflict.

[Begin (Troy) recording] A meeting of local chiefs, security force heads, and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] will take place over the next few days. The provincial office in Rabaul says members of the BRA in the north and parts of central Bougainville have indicated they want to lay down their arms and let government services enter the area.

A spokesman says this is a large proportion of the BRA and is indeed a significant breakthrough in the conflict. Government services to the north of the island have been going in for some time after PNG security forces regained control there. But many parts of the rest of the island are still controlled by the BRA and have little medical or humanitarian assistance. [end recording]

Two Bougainville Leaders Refused Australian Visas

BK0801070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Two representatives of the Bougainville Interim Government have been refused permission to enter Australia. The men wanted to attend an international law course on human rights in Sydney but were refused visas to enter Australia because their passports had been cancelled.

In November the Papua New Guinea Government cancelled passports held by island leaders seeking independence.

Vanuatu

Opposition Leader on 'Secret' Recolonization Plan

BK0801104492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] Vanuatu's opposition leader claims there is a secret plan to recolonize the country and subjected to foreign domination and control. PAC NEWS [PACIFIC NEWS

AGENCY] says the president of the Vanua'aku Party, Donald Kalpokas, alleges leaders of the Union of Moderate Parties in the coalition government (?are believed) to have been conspiring with right wing French groups in New Caledonia.

He alleges these elements are reactionary, racist, and [words indistinct] to independence and that these right wing French groups which are involved in the conspiracy include the RCCI [expansion unknown].

Mr. Kalpokas claims most of the free services promised by Maxim Carlo's new coalition government are likely to be funded by right wing French groups that are effectively placing Vanuatu under foreign control. PAC NEWS says Mr. Kalpokas's claims were made in a press conference which the government has banned from broadcast on state-owned Radio Vanuatu.